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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 29

MONDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2013

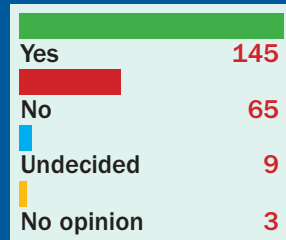
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POLL RESULTS

In light of President Obama's push for comprehensive immigration reform, do you support granting status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI?



Sunday, February 10, 2013

INSIDE

NATION



New Englanders begin the back-breaking job of digging out.

► PAGE 13

ASIA



A Philippine militant group is facing a new adversary: fellow insurgents.

► PAGE 16

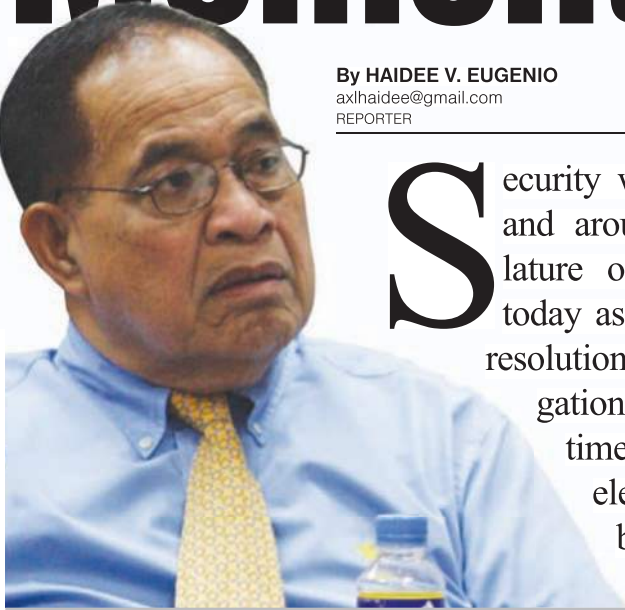
HEALTH & FITNESS



People who eat deep-fried foods may be more likely to suffer a stroke.

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Moment of truth



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Security will be tight in and around the Legislature on Capital Hill today as the 18th House of Representatives votes on a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 18 allegations of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. This time, the odds are in favor of members who want to elevate the process to the Senate for a trial that will be unprecedented in CNMI history.

See MOMENT on Page 4

» Tight security as House votes on impeachment
» Senate panel works on impeachment trial rules



MHS is RWDC regional champ anew

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Marianas High School's Aeronautical Dolphins emerged victorious in this year's Real World Design Challenge after being named champion once again in both state and regional contests, earning the slot to represent the Public School System and the Pacific region at the nationals.

The local students bested competitors from Guam, Micronesia, and American Samoa.

The MHS team will fly to Washington, D.C. in April to compete for the national

See MHS on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the winning Marianas High School's Aeronautical Dolphins pose with their mentors and officials during a recent awarding rites. The group emerged champion again both in the statewide and regional competitions and earned the slot to represent the Pacific region at the upcoming national competitions in Washington, D.C. this April.



56-week journey brings Michigan woman to Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Growing up doing road trips in the Midwest, Nancy Zybert realized at an early age that she doesn't have to travel beyond the United States to see "really amazing things"—sparking a big expedition dream that she never thought would become a reality.

But on her 56th birthday last year, Zybert finally packed her bags and embarked on a 56-week journey to all 56 states and territories, spending one week in each place where she would donate \$56 to a worthy cause every day.

Now on week 22 of her voyage, Zybert is experiencing and loving the Northern Mariana Islands—the fourth among the Pacific states and territories included in her so-called "Expedition 56: A 'Give Back to America' Journey."

"It's going so fast," said the Michigan native, who arrived on Saipan late Monday night. "I'm surprised it's going so fast and I'm loving every moment so I wish time would

See WOMAN on Page 4

YEAR OF THE SNAKE

A fireworks display lights up the sky in and around San Vicente as the CNMI joins millions worldwide in ushering in the Chinese New Year yesterday. The Year of the Snake is believed to be a "neither lucky nor bad" year, although some believe it will be more bullish than 2012.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Mother allegedly stabs 2-month-old baby. PAGE 3
Chamber, HANMI ask for delay in minimum wage hike. PAGE 5

Local

Kilili, 21 others ask Obama to retain post for insular areas

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), along with 21 other members of the U.S. House of Representatives, asked President Barack Obama to retain the position of Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas under the U.S. Department of the Interior, citing the benefits that the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and other U.S. affiliated islands have derived from the post.

Anthony "Tony" M. Babauta, a native of Guam, vacated the post when he resigned on Feb. 1.

"Your decision to raise the position to Assistant Secretary

status for the first time since 1994 has proven beneficial to the islands for the last four years as it allowed the Assistant Secretary to focus on your administration's policy commitments to the four insular areas...as well as other U.S. affiliated islands," the U.S. House members told Obama in a Feb. 6 letter.

They said these commitments are reflected in the different initiatives put forward by territorial delegates and advanced by the assistant secretary and the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

These include pursuing strategies to foster economic development, measuring gross domestic product of the U.S.

territories for the first time, addressing critical health needs, and the adoption of sustainable energy solutions.

"We urge you to continue this commitment by retaining and quickly filling the position," the House members said.

In the CNMI, Sablan said the assistant secretary "has been instrumental in bringing federal resources to assist the Commonwealth Health Center, has prioritized investments in renewable energy, and has worked closely with the congressional office to support a variety of community organizations and local government agencies."

"Retaining this position assures continued attention from

the highest levels of the federal government," Sablan said.

2011 probe

In other news, former U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Anthony "Tony" M. Babauta was a subject of a 2011 investigation by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General that was "closed with no further action." This is separate from a 2012 probe that placed him on administrative leave in November and later his resignation on Feb. 1 this year.

Babauta told Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Jan. 24 that he believes his work "improved the Office of Insular Affairs."

In February 2011, the Interior's Inspector General concluded an investigation based on an anonymous hotline complaint alleging that Babauta and another OIA employee used government funds to travel to San Francisco, Calif., from Nov. 16 through 18, 2010, but did not conduct government business.

The complaint also implied that Babauta and the OIA employee were involved in an improper relationship.

The IG report said Babauta and the OIA employee, whose name was redacted to protect her privacy, said they met with individuals regarding OIA issues, including the OIA-funded Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future, Guam Memorial Hospital, and a Pacific islands business summit.

Two of the leaders from Micronesia confirmed they met with Babauta and the OIA employee during that time. Both Babauta and the OIA employee denied having a romantic relationship.

"We are closing this investigation with no further action," the IG report says.

In May 2011, an IG letter referred to the Office of the Interior Secretary a complaint from an anonymous source alleging that Babauta engaged in wasteful spending and abuse of gov-

ernment funds.

Babauta and six others including OIA Director Nik Pula and director Wendy Fink traveled to San Francisco, California for a one-day training session on Alternative Dispute Resolution during the week of May 16, 2011.

"We have determined that this complaint would be better addressed by the Office of the Secretary; therefore, we are referring it to your office for review and any action you deemed appropriate," the IG told the Interior secretary's office.

Ogumoro brothers oppose US govt request for sale of property

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro and his brother, police director Aniceto Ogumoro, oppose the U.S. government's request for the federal court to issue an order directing the U.S. Marshal to complete the sale of a piece of land owned by Ambrosio Ogumoro so he could make a partial payment on a default judgment in connection with a fishing boat oil spill in 2004.

The Ogumoros, through counsel Douglas F. Cushnie, on Thursday asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to quash the U.S. government's application and enter a finding that the U.S. government is in breach of their settlement agreement.

Cushnie said an application for writ through the court clerk, without any judicial oversight, appears to be a way to avoid the settlement agreement.

"This is a contract and with the United States engaging in conduct which amounts to a breach of contract, there is no basis for enforcing obligations against the defendants," the lawyer said.

Last month, the U.S. government asked the federal court to order that, upon receipt of the

A separate 2012 IG investigation is reportedly about a grant that Babauta's office awarded to the University of Guam. This investigation is still ongoing.

Babauta was among the highest ranking native Pacific Islander serving in the U.S. government. His office has oversight over U.S. insular areas such as the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Obama nominated Babauta in July 2009. Two months later, the U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination.

Babauta's former post is currently filled by Eileen Sobeck, but only in an acting capacity.

proceeds of the land from the U.S. Marshal, the clerk of court shall deposit the funds and issue a check to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Cruz, in the U.S. government's application for writ of execution, said that Ambrosio Ogumoro, as well as the previous owner of the property, Leiana K. Ogumoro, agreed to the sale of the property in a settlement agreement executed in the 2009 civil case against Ambrosio and his daughter, Leiana.

Cruz said the settlement agreement stipulates that Ambrosio and Leiana Ogumoro give their consent to the U.S. to sell and receive the entire proceeds from the sale of the land, either through private sale, foreclosure, or public sale.

Cruz said partial satisfaction of the default judgment by sale of the lot, as agreed to in the settlement agreement, has not been completed because the title to the property remains with Ambrosio Ogumoro and the property has not been sold.

In the Ogumoros' motion to quash, Cushnie said the attempt to secure such a writ is in direct violation of the settlement agreement entered into by the parties, "an agreement that the Ogumoros have faithfully performed."



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Manglona orders two cases vs Sen. Ayuyu tried jointly

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has issued an order to clarify the record that the two criminal cases against Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (R-Rota) are joined for trial on Feb. 19, 2013.

Manglona issued the written order on Thursday, memorializing an order she issued on the record during Ayuyu's initial appearance in the second case on Dec. 18, 2012, but not fully reflected in the court's minute entry.

The judge said that, at the initial appearance, the court observed that Ayuyu was already set for trial in the first criminal case, to commence on Feb. 19, 2013.

Manglona had suggested that it would be proper to try the two cases together on that date.

Ayuyu's then counsel, Steven Pixley, in both cases agreed to try the cases together, Manglona said.

Assistant U.S. attorney

Garth Backe, as counsel for the U.S. government, agreed to a joint trial.

The judge set both cases for trial on Feb. 19.

Manglona said the U.S. government offered to follow up with a written motion and proposed order to join the cases for trial, but no such written motion was filed.



Ayuyu

The first indictment charged Ayuyu and Ryan James Inos Manglona with conspiracy to violate the Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act, one count of violating the Endangered Species Act, and one count of violating the Lacey Act.

The indictment alleged that on Oct. 17, 2010, Ayuyu and Ryan Manglona conspired and agreed to conceal eight dead Mariana fruit bats (*Pteropus mariannus mariannus*) underneath 40 lbs of lemon inside a cardboard box and to attempt to transport the box to Saipan on a Freedom Air flight.

A separate indictment charged Ryan Manglona with three counts of lying to a grand jury and one count of obstruc-

tion of justice.

Ayuyu was at that time out on bail.

Last Dec. 17, federal agents arrested Ayuyu after a federal grand jury handed down a second indictment charging him with conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding, obstructing an official proceeding, tampering with a witness, suborning perjury, attempting to prevent testimony of a witness, obstructing the due administration of justice, and attempting to destroy or remove seized property.

According to the second indictment, on Oct. 17, 2010, Ayuyu instructed Ryan Manglona to deliver a cardboard box containing Mariana fruit bats to the Rota airport in advance of the senator's flight to Saipan.

Ryan Manglona worked for the Rota Mayor's Office and was also assigned to perform duties on behalf of the Rota Legislative Delegation. He subsequently pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice.

On Dec. 19, judge Manglona granted the U.S. government's motion to detain Ayuyu pending trial in his second case.

Ayuyu, 48, pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Bail change denied for man accused of aiming gun at 2

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A man who was recently arrested for allegedly aiming a gun at his two cousins has asked the Superior Court to modify his \$50,000 cash bail and proposed his common-law wife to serve as his third-party custodian.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, however, denied Sergio Rangamar's motion on Friday after learning that the common-law wife has had three temporary restraining orders filed against him.

"The proposed third party custodian is in no position to protect herself against the violent behavior of the defendant," Camacho said, adding that the bail shall remain at \$50,000 cash.

Camacho quoted the common-law wife's own words in the most recent TRO filed in February 2012: "There were

also times where I had to use my children to protect myself from getting hit."

In another TRO filed in September 2010, the common-law wife stated that her biggest fear was when Rangamar pushed her as she was then seven months pregnant, which might have caused her to fall and injure herself and her unborn child.

In the third TRO filed in June 2009, the common-law wife stated she heard gunshots outside their house and that she was so scared that she never slept until the sun came up.

"Next day came and I thanked God I'm still alive," the common-law wife stated in court papers.

Rangamar, through assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti, had asked the court to reduce his \$50,000 cash bail to \$25,000 and proposed his common-law wife as his third party custodian.

Camacho said the court's determination on bail should take into account the nature and circumstances of the offense charge, the weight of the evidence against the accused, the financial ability of the accused to give bail and the character of the accused.

Police arrested the 36-year-old Rangamar on Jan. 31 for allegedly aiming a gun at his two cousins for cleaning the premises of a property in Gualo Rai. Police recovered at the scene a 9mm semi-automatic pistol with a 9mm live round in the chamber, another live round in the magazine, seven 9mm full metal jacket live rounds, and five 9mm hollow point live rounds.

When arrested, Rangamar allegedly admitted to assaulting his cousins' father in the past and that he and the cousins' family have been feuding.

Mother allegedly stabs 2-month-old baby

A mother allegedly stabbed more than once her 2-month-old baby at their home on Saipan Saturday night, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

Sources disclosed that the baby, a boy, survived with a stab wound in the abdomen and a laceration in the neck.

The father accompanied his child in an ambulance that took them to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The baby underwent successful operation at CHC's intensive care unit. He was later taken to the hospital's pediatric ward.

It was not clear yet whether the mother had been arrested.

The motive behind the stabbing has also not been determined yet.

Sources said authorities are looking into the possibility that the mother was suffering from postpartum depression, a type of clinical depression that affects women typically just after giving birth.

The Department of Public Safety is expected to release

information to the public about the incident today, Monday. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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WOMAN

From Page 1

slow down.

Zybur said her most favorite part of the island is the pathway along Beach Road, which she passes through when she walks eight miles a day or 56 miles throughout her weeklong stay in every state and territory.

"I would walk there every day if I lived here. I think it's one of the prettiest walks that I've taken in these island territories. It's just so beautiful, sitting there and looking at the ocean when I stop and take a rest," said Zybur, adding that she also enjoys the fresh produce at the farmer's market.

The traveling charity donor has already made at least two nonprofit organizations in the CNMI happy, presenting last Thursday a \$56 donation each to Karidat Social Services and the Guma Esperanza shelter.

Since majority of her donations go to food pantries and soup kitchens, Zybur plans to include on her list of beneficiaries the CNMI Salvation Army and the American Red Cross NMI Chapter.

Zybur also went on a day trip to Tinian last Friday. She regrets having to miss Rota, which she heard is "pretty."

"I want to see it all and we can't always do that but I'm just thrilled to be able to see at least more than Saipan, to just have the opportunity to see one of the others at least," she said.

How it all started

Planning for the entire journey was not a breeze, though, Zybur said. With three daughters and a business to take care of, she didn't think her original dream to visit the entire 50 states would pan out.

But an auspicious quarter from a vending machine in the classical ballet studio that she owns right outside Ann

Arbor galvanized Zybur into action. She knew about the territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam—but not the CNMI or American Samoa, which made her "very intrigued."

Realizing that U.S. states and territories now make 56 and that she'll be 56 by the time her youngest of three daughters will be done with college, Zybur thought she may be able to make her dream come true.

After a couple of years of planning, Zybur finally set the dream in motion in 2012 when her daughter graduated in April. She sold her business in May and hit the road on her 56th birthday on Aug. 31.

"It all came together and to me, it was like it was meant to be," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Zybur started out her trip visiting the New England states along the East Coast, camping out when she can. With a big journey ahead of her, she expected hurdles along the way, beginning with Hurricane Sandy during which she was in Rhode Island. Her family advised her to get out of the way.

"I've been blown off course a little bit but that's all right. I have flexibility and the only dates that were cast in stone were the territories because I had flight reservations," she said.

Zybur encountered another setback in Guam where her purse containing cash and credit cards, cell phone, driver's license, and passport got stolen when thieves smashed the windows of her rental car.

"When something bad like that happens, it brings out a lot of good in people," said Zybur, still unfazed even though she lost not just valuables but also precious hours that she could've spent on her journey.

She spent extra time calling card companies and proving her identity to

the Transportation Security Administration for them to allow her to travel to Saipan. "It was awkward but it was doable," she added.

Zybur also gave credit to her neighbors looking after everything back home. "I have amazing neighbors. We're good friends and they support what I'm doing, too."

Despite traveling by herself, Zybur doesn't feel alone as she has seen her daughters and many of her family members throughout her journey. She also allots two-day family breaks for special occasions such as Christmas, weddings, and graduations.

What's next after Expedition 56

Zybur expects to conclude Expedition 56 by October and go back home to Michigan where she will be reunited with her walking buddy Tula, a chocolate lab being cared for by her daughter at the moment.

"I won't have any money but I will be the richest person on the planet with all the memories and the people I have met. I have these experiences," said Zybur, who would be 57 by then.

Once she returns, Zybur plans to get a job, not own another business.

"I'm pretty detailed and organized. I'm more of a number person, not a creative person," she said.

Her advice to other aspiring wanderers? Flexibility, for one. "If you leave on a big, long, huge adventure, you need some flexibility. Things are not always going to go well."

But the most important thing, Zybur noted, is patience.

"If you have a big dream, don't give up on it. It might not happen for a few years and that's when you have to be patient. Sometimes, that dream even gets better. If someone has a dream that kind of seems impossible, don't give up on it."

ments and/or materials provided; hence render a fair and impartial decision based on admissible evidence," Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Santos, one of the four House members aligned with the governor and his Republican Party, said: "As a representative of the people, I would encourage attendance by the general public to witness the impeachment proceeding."

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) said he expects a "cordial session" and hopes the public would participate and understand the process.

"I expect no opposition from minority and anti-impeachment friends," Tebuteb added. He is one of the members of a special committee that reviewed the impeachment resolution.

The special committee, chaired by Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), prefiled on Thursday afternoon its 51-page final report recommending passage of the impeachment resolution, in the form of HR 18-2, House Draft 1.

All 20 House members have been given copies of the committee report, which is up for action today. The special committee report is the first of its kind in the CNMI.

People's mandate

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) said it would be appreciated if the public tunes in to the House session today. He added that House members are expected to "do what is right and just."

Glen Hunter, a private citizen advocating change in government, said yesterday that he expects House members to "do the right thing and uphold the mandate of the people. ...I expect the members of the Senate will do the right thing as well."

"The last time this issue went to the

floor for a vote, the majority was labeled a 'silent' one. After the election it is very clear that they are no longer silent, they are shouting," Hunter said.

Deleon Guerrero, the main author of the impeachment resolution, said, "Let history judge" today's event.

"We are going to do our job," he said.

Among the impeachment allegations relate to the unauthorized release of a federal inmate in January 2010 to massage the governor at his home, signing of a no-bid \$190.8-million power purchase agreement and a no-bid almost \$400,000 ARRA management contract, helping a former attorney general avoid a penal summons related to criminal charges, and failure to appoint key officials for Senate consideration, among other things.

House members will vote on each of the 18 articles of impeachment, instead of voting on the full impeachment resolution.

The governor can be impeached by the House and convicted by the Senate on any of the 18 articles.

Rules and public comment

In the early part of the House session, there will be a public comment period wherein those in the gallery could comment on the issues on the agenda, including the impeachment resolution, House Resolution 18-2.

The House speaker said that members of the public will be given up to five minutes to comment on the items on the agenda.

Deleon Guerrero said the House sergeant-at-arms has coordinated with the Department of Public Safety to provide security.

"Let them say what they have to say and let the members take it into consideration, but please respect the rights



Nancy Zybur, center, is flanked by park rangers Rosreeann Leon Guerrero and Susan Fishman Tudor for a souvenir photo at the American Memorial Park on Thursday. A native of Michigan, the 56-year-old Zybur is on Saipan for her 56-week travel across U.S. states and territories called Expedition 56: A "Give Back to America" Journey.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

MHS

From Page 1

title against 50 other teams.

This is the second time that MHS students will be going to the nationals. Last year, the MHS team was awarded the "Against All Odds" aviation merit award.

The Real World Design Challenge is an annual high school competition for all states and territories, whose goal is to transform the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education in the U.S. by providing professional science and engineering and learning resources to students and teachers.

This year's main challenge was to design an unmanned aircraft that will conduct rescue missions and can detect targets in high-risk areas.

of others, including the media, because we also saw there were insults. And basically warn them that if people don't respect this rule, they would be asked to leave the building," he said.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comment from DPS, but as of press time, the department has yet to respond.

Deleon Guerrero added that "for security reasons," the House leadership decided to hold the session on a Monday and at daytime.

"It's much harder for somebody to do that in the daylight hours. And avoid not only vandalism but also potentially fights or violence," he said.

The House session will be aired live on Channel 60. It may also be aired on Channel 14.

Trial rules

In related news, Senate Vice President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the four-member Senate Special Committee on Impeachment, convened a first informal meeting on Friday afternoon wherein they set out their main goal, which is to formulate the rules that will govern the impeachment trial if and when the House moves the process to the Senate for trial.

Besides Torres, the other committee members at the meeting were Sens. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan), and Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

He said the rules are now being drafted by the members and the Senate legal counsels.

"As soon as the committee has formulated the rules of the [trial] proceedings, of the impeachment process, then this special committee will provide the rules to the whole Senate to adopt it," he said. The committee will then be dissolved.

In the statewide RWDC competition, Saipan Southern High School's Flying Mantas emerged second place.

Event coordinator Jeaniffer H. Cubangbang congratulated the school teams for joining the competition.

"Designing an unmanned aircraft to conduct rescue missions that can detect targets in high risk areas to aid in rescue is truly a real world problem solved. On top of that, your team had to use higher order thinking skills for math analysis, engineering issues, and using million-dollar technology software to solve a real national problem is just wow! Very impressive STEM work! PSS is very proud of you!" said Cubangbang in her message to participants.

Official awarding is set on March 9 during the 2013 PSS Island-wide STEM Fair to be held at the MHS Gymnasium.

The rules might include a provision allowing the tapping of current and retired members of the Judiciary to serve as facilitator during the trial.

But Torres said the committee has yet to decide how such Judiciary member or members could be chosen.

He said if and when the House adopts the impeachment resolution and moves the process to the Senate, Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) will notify the governor that the Senate has received such impeachment resolution and give the governor time to respond.

Depending on the rules set by the committee, the response time for the governor could be a week or two.

The impeachment trial at the Senate will then proceed.

Torres is encouraging senators, especially members of the special committee, to watch the proceedings at the House today to better prepare them should the process move to the Senate.

In the nine-member Senate, at least six affirmative votes are needed to convict the governor.

With Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) still behind bars, only eight senators are expected to vote.

AG's statement

Meanwhile, Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas said the Office of the Attorney General does represent the government in civil proceedings.

"However, the Senate impeachment trial is not a civil proceeding, therefore, the OAG will not be representing the governor at the impeachment trial," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The AG has instead recommended to the governor to hire private counsels for his defense should the impeachment proceedings move to the Senate.

Chamber, HANMI ask for delay in minimum wage hike

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands

NMC waits for ACCJC's decision on accreditation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas is awaiting the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges' decision on whether to reaffirm or revoke the college's accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., provided two reports to the ACCJC in December. Based on Hart's report to the Board of Regents last week, one report was to correct errors while the second report outlined the progress NMC has made in addressing the recommendations of the evaluation team that visited the campus in October 2012.

Saipan Tribune learned that the college also submitted two reports to WASC in December—one to correct errors found in the October visit report and the other was a response to the recommendations outlined in WASC's reaffirmation report.

In early January, regents chair Juan Lizama and Hart met with the ACCJC commission in San Francisco, California where the president delivered a verbal report to commission members. at the same occasion, both Lizama

Marine Corps's exercise brings Okinawa-based troops to Guam

Two companies of Okinawa-based Marines and sailors with III Marine Expeditionary Force will begin training in Guam today, Feb. 11, during Exercise Guahan Shield 2013, which is scheduled to conclude in May.

The exercise will facilitate multiservice engagement, set conditions for bilateral and multilateral training opportunities, and support rapid response to potential theater crises and contingency operations in the Asia-Pacific region.

About 175 members from Combat Logistics Detachment 39, 9th Engineering Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, and about 175 members with the infantry's Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, will participate in the training. The exercise will be conducted on existing military facilities in Guam.

Guam provides the diverse expeditionary training opportunities Marines need to conduct dynamic, varied training evolutions necessary to maintain proficiency and operational readiness across the range of military operations, further improving

are asking for another postponement of the federally mandated 50-cent hike in CNMI minimum wage scheduled for September 2013, until a new economic impact analysis is done.

and Hart responded to questions by commission members.

The commission will issue its decision anytime this month.

The college's accreditation was among the matters discussed by the Board of Regents during an executive session last week.

Due to the existing two-year rule imposed by the U.S. Department of Education, NMC's accreditation will likely be revoked if the commission finds that the college failed to rectify the deficiencies it identified in its recommendation report.

Based on the U.S. Department of Education's mandate, a college or university must meet all standards of the accreditation within the two years of receiving a sanction of "probation" or "warning." NMC was given these statuses in the last six years.

NMC was placed on continued probation in 2010. Based on two-year rule of USDOE, NMC has to meet all standards by 2012 or its accreditation will be terminated.

NMC has been accredited by the ACCJC since 1985.

Among the recurring deficiencies found at the college is its inadequate financial resources.

the Marine Corps' ability to rapidly respond to contingencies throughout the region.

"It is exciting for us to deploy for training; we look to take advantage of the diverse training environments and opportunities that Guam has to offer. Aviation units have done several exercises [in] Guam, but ground service support companies can also benefit from training there, specifically our engineering company and the potential opportunities for multiservice engagement projects," said Capt. Chad Presley, company commander for CLD-39.

Additionally, Guahan Shield also offers the opportunity for Marines and sailors from III MEF to interact with local communities in Guam and the surrounding Mariana Islands, facilitating constructive community engagements and community relations projects.

"We look forward to interacting with the local communities there and learning about the Chamorro culture," said Maj. Rob Thomas, officer in charge of the forward command element for Guahan Shield. (PR)

The CNMI minimum wage is now \$5.55 an hour.

If this year's scheduled increase is not postponed, it will be raised to \$6.05 an hour in September.

The minimum wage hike was deferred in 2011 at the request of these business groups and with the support of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). It resumed in 2012.

These two business groups wrote a letter to Sablan last week, once again asking that he initiate efforts with federal congressional offices to postpone the September 2013 increase. Sablan has yet to respond to the letter.

The Chamber and HANMI are asking for a wage increase postponement until such time they can complete a study and

economic impact analysis "to quantitatively state that no further harm will be done to the CNMI" of such increases "that cannot be absorbed without business failure and job loss."

Both groups want to work with the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the U.S. Department of Labor on such a study.

They said member firms see a "slight glimmer of hope" that the CNMI has now reached its lowest economic reality "and can begin to rebirth our economy." They said these businesses "only hope that nothing changes that vision."

"It is not just about existing business activity and jobs that have survived to this date; it is for the future investment

of those who may come to this part of America, and for all those future jobs for the people of the Commonwealth that we make this request for our United States representative," said Chamber president Alex Sablan and HANMI president Nick Nishikawa in a four-page letter to the delegate.

The CNMI's minimum wage increased from \$2.15 an hour in 1980 to \$2.45 in 1986. It went up to \$2.90 in 1991, to \$3.05 in 1996, and to \$3.55 in 2007.

A 2007 federal law mandated that the CNMI minimum wage be increased by 50 cents every year until it reaches the federal wage floor of \$7.25 an hour. The 2011 deferment of the annual increase helped businesses cope with the hikes.

"None of what has happened to the economy has gone unpredicted, with respect to wage rates," the Chamber and HANMI added.

A GAO report stated that minimum wage increase in 2010-2018 would affect wages of almost all workers in the tourism industry.

"This led to reduced overtime hours, reduced regular hours, a hiring freeze, laying off workers, decreased benefits, and additional measures such as implementing other labor and cost saving strategies or technology and a reduction in capacity or services," it said.

GAO is not mandated to revisit the impact of increasing minimum wage rates in the CNMI until early 2014.





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ON 2ND DAY OF JURY DELIBERATIONS:

Weindl's counsel claims one image not of child

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As jury deliberations entered its second day in the trial of former school principal Thomas Weindl on Friday, his lawyer filed a motion for special jury

instruction or, in the alternative, for a mistrial.

It was learned, however, that defense counsel David Banes later withdrew that afternoon the alternative request for a declaration of a mistrial.

After a hearing on the motion,

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied Weindl's motion for special jury instruction.

The jurors did not reach a verdict and were instructed to resume deliberations this morning, Monday.

In the defendant's motion for special jury instruction, Banes said that, on Wednesday after the defense and prosecution rested, the U.S. government specifically identified an image as depicting child pornography and submitted that image to the

jury for consideration.

"However, defense counsel has already confirmed that the aforesaid image actually depicts a mid-twenties adult female and therefore cannot be child pornography," Banes said.

The image, the defense lawyer pointed out, comes from a well-known commercially produced pornographic video that is widely available on the Internet from numerous mainstream adult porn sites.

Banes listed the alleged adult porn sites.

Banes requested that a special jury instruction be issued directing the jury that the image is not of a minor and may not form the basis for a conviction of access with intent to view child pornography.

In the alternative, the lawyer requested that a mistrial be declared as the jury has considered and may find Weindl guilty of accessing with intent to view child pornography on the basis of that image when, in fact, the image is actually of an adult.

"A grave miscarriage of justice would be committed if defendant is convicted of accessing child porn when, in

fact, the image is commercially produced adult pornography involving adult actors who are over 18 years of age," he said.

The jury deliberations began on Thursday and resumed Friday.

The 68-year-old Weindl is on trial for one count of receipt of child pornography and one count of access with intent to view child pornography.

Weindl is accused of accessing child pornography websites using a Public School System-issued laptop. He admitted viewing adult pornographic websites, but denied accessing websites that contain child pornographic materials.

Nominations open for 2013 Businesswoman of the Year

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* are seeking nominations for the 8th annual Businesswoman of the Year *Maga'Haga* award. Nominees must be residents of Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands.

Nominees should meet the following criteria: a businesswoman who has made a significant difference in her industry through her organization or her business, a woman who has contributed to her community, a woman who is a leading representative of her profession or field, a woman who displays the best qualities of one in business.

The deadline for nominations is March 5. The winner will be announced at the Businesswoman of the Year Gala on April 27.

The Gala is also a fundraiser for the Businesswoman of the Year scholarship program. The scholarships, open to both full-

time and part-time college students, are intended to promote higher education by providing financial assistance to college students pursuing professional careers in business or a related field who are enrolled at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, or Northern Marianas College.

The 2012 Businesswoman of the Year *Maga'Haga* award recipient was Mary P. Rhodes, president of the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and president of MARQ Consulting Services.

For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Frank Whitman, managing editor, *Guam Business Magazine* at (671) 649-0883 Ext. 126 or managingeditor@glimpsesof-guam.com or Lou Sanchez, sales and marketing manager, First Hawaiian Bank at (671) 475-7853 or lsanchez@fhhb.com. (PR)

'Hospital stands to receive less from Medicaid EHR incentive program'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although most acute community hospitals in the United States qualify for both the Medicare and the Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentives, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is not eligible for the Medicare EHR Incentive, leaving it with just the Medicaid EHR incentive program, according to COO Esther Muna Thursday.

"Unfortunately, hospitals in the territories have been declared by statute as ineligible for the Medicare Hospital EHR Incentive, unlike the hospitals in the 50 states and the District of Columbia," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

At the same time, she said the formula for the Medicaid share

is complex and will take time before the corporation receives any Medicaid EHR incentive.

According to her, the data about the collected amounts is still being checked and the corporation is calculating and verifying the discharges to determine the amount of incentive for the corporation. The local Medicaid agency, Muña said, is helping CHCC by enabling access to the Medicaid database to verify patient eligibility.

According to Muña, the corporation used to have a "pending Medicaid eligibility" field because of the time it took the Medicaid Office to process eligibility applications.

"A complete check of the eligibility and bed days is in progress because those are key

factors which will determine the actual amounts that the CHCC is eligible for [the incentive]," said Muña, adding that the Medicaid Office will also audit the numbers and claim submitted by the corporation.

Once this is done, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services will transfer monies to the CNMI so that the corporation can receive the incentive.

According to corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta, even though the CHC is only eligible for the Medicaid EHR incentive, the corporation is committed to implementing the open source (resource patient management system) RPMS EHR to improve patient safety, clinical care, public health reporting and data analysis, and efficiency

in billing and accounts receivables.

Saipan Tribune learned that CHC's resource patient management system has been certified as a complete electronic health record for ambulatory and inpatient settings.

The CEO said that meaningful use of the project can be proven by the end of this year. "This is a lot of work for our EHR team, but we are making progress and hope to attest to Stage 1 of Meaningful Use by the end of the year," said Babauta.

The CNMI will be reimbursed once it satisfies the stage 1 requirement of the Medicaid Office, which include procuring new computers, software, and manpower training.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-13-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of fuel for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purchase of approximately 18,000,000 – 20,000,000 US gallons annually of No. 2 Diesel Fuel Oil (also known as gasoil or Low Sulfur ADO for, American Samoa and CNMI, as defined by US EPA) will be for the period starting May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **February 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-RFP-13-015, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation*," to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 08, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present, exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **February 22, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



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40 GRIEVANCE CASES PENDING AT CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

New CSC leadership vows expeditious hearings, fair judgments

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The new leadership at the Civil Service Commission vowed to work expeditiously on pending grievance cases and promised an impartial hearing and fair judgments on all issues before them.

Civil Service Commission executive director Andrew Orsini gave this assurance while

lauding the passage of Public Law 17-80, which returned control of the Office of Personnel Management to the commission for purposes of administrative efficiency.

OPM was previously under the purview of the Governor's Office.

Orsini said there are currently 40 grievance and appeal cases pending at the commission, some filed as long as three years

ago. The delay in resolving these cases was blamed mainly on the difficulty of finding qualified and willing board members as well as the complexity of the board's authority.

Due to the lack of quorum, the commission's seven-member board has not issued any decision since February 2008.

Under the old law, the commission board can only render a decision if two-thirds of the

board—five members—are present. Any decision must be unanimous.

Under the newly enacted P.L. 17-80, the board is still composed of seven members but four members are already enough to declare a quorum.

Current board members are chair Herman DLG. Guerrero, vice chair Eric Plinske, and members Charles Calvo and Augustina Kukkun. The new board first

met in December 2012.

Orsini, who has been serving the civil service commission for over 17 years, is tasked to guide and assist the new board. He said the agency is now in a transitional period and among its priorities is the relocation of OPM and the commission's office to a government unit on Capital Hill. *Saipan Tribune* learned that \$240,000 is needed to complete the renovation

of the new office. Orsini intends to seek the help of the Office of the Governor and the Legislature to secure the funds for this purpose.

The current commission office in Garapan is being leased from a private owner.

Orsini also underscored the importance of the agency's independence and autonomy when rendering decisions in cases involving government employees. This is the why, he said, most members of the commission board come from the retired sector and private entities.

Due to the board's incapacity since 2008, many of the persons involved in pending cases have either relocated off-island or changed their addresses. That means the agency's first order of business is trying to track down these individuals, said Orsini. All cases filed before the Civil Service Commission has no statute of limitations and can be pursued anytime unless withdrawn.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are about 5,000 government employees that are under the oversight of the commission. In the case of autonomous agencies, employees have the flexibility to file a complaint with the commission if they are dissatisfied with their department's decision.

Former CHC staffer now NMHC division manager

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has a new Mortgage & Credit Division manager in Chris Pangelinan.

Pangelinan, who officially started working on Feb. 4, attended Thursday his first board meeting where he was welcomed by the agency's board of directors.

"NMHC is one organization that's dedicated to helping the community, especially the low-income families. It's a great opportunity and I want to be part of the organization," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Pangelinan said he holds a degree in finance from the University of Washington. He was employed in a bank in Seattle where he was in charge of loan processing and origination, among others.

"I've been gone for too long and I'm glad to be back here on Saipan and help the community, he said.

When he returned, Pangelinan worked for a year at the

Commonwealth Healthcare Center where he took charge of a newly created department under the business office unit.

Asked how he feels about working now as Mortgage & Credit Division manager for the NMHC, Pangelinan said he feels honored since it's a sought-after position.

"It has its own challenges, definitely. I'm still in the first week so I'm still trying to get situated, looking what needs to be done and what kind of challenges and issues that we need to address," he added.

Pangelinan maintains that collection is one of the areas that needs attention.

"We'll take a look at that and do an assessment and come up with some kind of process to update the current process now. Basically, to improve on the collection effort," he explained.

NMHC is the Commonwealth's key provider for housing, mortgage, and community development programs. (Clarissa V. David)



Pangelinan



COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

Cmdr. Andrew Carlson, the Commanding Officer of the USS *Higgins*, presents a commemorative plaque to United States Ambassador to Palau Helen Reed-Rowe in Koror, Palau. The destroyer pulled into Palau on Feb. 4 to conduct a routine port visit.

U.S. NAVY/ENS. KARA LYNN YINGLING



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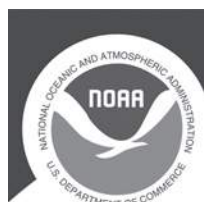
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NOAA FISHERIES
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corals

NOAA announces public hearings to be held for the proposed rule to list 66 coral species as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Public hearings will be held at the following locations on the date and time provided:

Guam Hilton, Hagatna
202 Hilton Road, Tumon Bay, Guam 96913
February 11, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Multipurpose Room on Beach Road, Susupe
Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950
February 12, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Fleming Hotel, Tinian
P.O. Box 68 Tinian, MP 96952
February 13, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Mayor's Office, Rota
Tatachog Road, Rota, CNMI 96951
February 15, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Each hearing will include an initial town hall style meeting for the public to review materials and ask questions, followed by a formal hearing to submit public testimony. The full text of the proposed rule and supplemental documents can be found at www.regulations.gov or at www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_coral.html#supplemental_docs

For a full schedule of the public hearings please visit:
www.fpir.noaa.gov

Conner wants '\$150 education fee' accounted for

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) pre-filed Thursday a bill seeking to create a special account wherein all money from the CNMI education funding fee of \$150 for every foreign worker that employers hire. He said his bill, if signed into law, will help ensure every penny is accounted for.

U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Re-

sources Act, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, mandates a CNMI education funding fee of \$150 for every alien worker hired.

As of 2012, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services remitted a total of \$1.8 million to the CNMI Treasury, Conner said.

Renewals are ongoing, and this means additional funding for the education and training of eligible U.S. workers in the CNMI to seek gainful employment.

In his House Bill 18-13, Con-

ner said discussions with key persons with the U.S. Department of the Interior and USCIS revealed that the collected educational fees shall be deposited into the CNMI general fund "without further action by the respective U.S. government entities."

"This, however, does not entail that the monies collected from the educational funding fee as deposited be used for any other purpose other than for what the CNRA's mandate re-

quires," the bill says.

Under the bill, all the money deposited in the proposed special account for expenditure and without further appropriation should be used as follows: 30 percent for technical education program; 50 percent for vocational education programs at Northern Marianas College; and 20 percent for the Office of the Governor for other government and private sector vocational education and job training programs.



BEACH CLEANUP

Employees of Shirley's Coffee Shop have their first beach cleanup for 2013 on Jan. 29, 2013, at the back of the Aquarius Hotel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMHC mulls \$100 cut in Sec. 8 landlord payments

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is exploring the possibility of an across-the-board reduction of \$100 in landlord housing assistance payments under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program in an effort to help more low-income families in the CNMI that are on the program's waiting list.

Program and Housing Division manager Kimo Rosario informed NMHC board members during Thursday's meeting about the proposal which, when implemented, would translate to at least 30 vouchers that would help families on the Section 8 program wait list.

At present, there are 431 applicants on the wait list, a significant drop from 653 back in December 2009. Of the current number of wait listed applicants, 420 are from Saipan, nine are from Tinian, and two are from Rota.

According to Rosario, the number on the wait list has declined due to the agency's continued efforts to purge the list every month.

"In order for us to cater to additional families, we have to either reduce the rent or get additional funding from the feds," Rosario told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

The proposal, Rosario said, would affect 318 families on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, including those who have moved to off-island locations but continue to be under the Section 8 program.

Of this number, Rosario said that 286 of voucher holders are from Saipan while 14 are "port outs" or those who have moved to a different part of the United States. Twelve of the port outs are now based in Guam, while two are in Oregon.

Rosario noted that this proposed action is allowable by the

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which funds NMHC-administered housing programs.

However, the affected Section 8 clients and landlords would have to be informed before the proposal is implemented or any action is taken regarding the proposal, he pointed out.

"We have to conduct a market study," Rosario explained. "We have to see what the fair market rent is, we have to make sure that whatever reduction or action that's taken is within our authorized payment standards."

In doing the study, Rosario said his division would have to compare the Section 8 landlords proposed rents to unassisted or non-Section 8 units.

"We'll also issue public notices for landlords, inviting them to advertise here and to provide us what their proposed rents are and use that as data," he added.



Rosario

"It's a tedious process. We have to cover and make sure that everything is done properly."

Rosario noted that NMHC cannot go beyond the allowed 363 vouchers or spend more than its approved budget authority.

He also disclosed at the meeting that the agency is set to issue six additional vouchers to new eligible families in the coming days, which would bring the number of Section 8 HCV vouchers issued to 324—the same number issued by the agency from October to November 2012.

Meanwhile, there are 369 applicants on the wait list for the agency's Section 8 Multifamily program. Of this number, 365 are on Saipan, one on Tinian, and three on Rota.

NMHC has a total of 132 multifamily units in the Mihaville and Koblerville Estates on Saipan, Broadway on Tinian, and Liyo on Rota. Rosario noted that both estates on Saipan are fully leased up.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 11, 2004

\$16K reward for iConnect blast info

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, together with I-Connect management and the NMI Crime Stoppers, is offering \$16,000 in reward for information leading to the arrest of the masterminds and perpetrators behind the explosion at the I-Connect radio bunker on Mt. Tapochao. NMI Crime Stoppers vice president Rod Klinge disclosed yesterday that a network between the three agencies began Tuesday for the immediate arrest of the suspects in the incident. The blast, which has been classified as deliberate, damaged one of the four radio sites of I-Connect, where a federal radio transmitter was located. Klinge said that NMI Crime Stoppers would foot \$1,000 of the reward money, while I-connect will shoulder \$10,000 and the FBI will provide the remaining \$5,000.

House to hold dialogue with 'stateless' kids

The chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations will spearhead a dialogue with stateless individuals this Friday, in what the House leadership sees as a step toward resolving the group's longstanding predicament. The meeting has been set for Feb. 12, 6pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The term "stateless" refers to those born in the CNMI between 1976-the signing of the CNMI-U.S. Covenant-and 1986-the granting of U.S. citizenships to all NMI-born people. Charles Reyes, the House Leadership's public information officer, said yesterday that Rep. Claudio K. Norita has set up the meeting with the concerned individuals to map out possible solutions.

Feb. 11, 2005

'Cuts in national budget could impact CNMI'

The CNMI government is not certain yet what programs would be affected by the proposed federal budget cut, but is hopeful that the U.S. Congress would eventually restore them. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said yesterday that significant federal budget cuts would mean the phase out of certain domestic programs. "If it does, we'd need to phase out programs and try other ways of funding, but we don't know yet," he said, noting that the national budget remains a proposal. President Bush has submitted a \$2.57-trillion spending plan for fiscal year 2006, which NMI Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has described as "the most austere domestic spending plan in over 20 years."

Consultant paid \$90K for health insurance privatization

The Governor's Office is paying a health insurance consultant some \$90,000 to help the NMI Retirement Fund privatize its group health insurance program. Governor's senior policy advisor Robert Schwalbach confirmed yesterday that the Executive Branch would pay Hawaii-based consultant Karen Bauder for her work. "The Governor's Office contributed that money to make it easier for Group Health and Life Insurance program to make the conversion and to do so with professional assistance," said Schwalbach.

Feb. 11, 2006

AG says no 'paid vacation' for Willens

Constitutional expert Howard Willens is receiving \$100 daily allowance while serving as an assistant attorney general and a special legal counsel to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. He is not being paid for his services and he has also refused to let the government pay his hotel bills, it was learned yesterday. The administration disclosed yesterday the terms of Willens' contract, in response to allegations by the Marianas Public Lands Authority that the government is providing Willens a "paid vacation" on Saipan. Acting Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory said yesterday that Willens is paid an allowance of \$100 for each day that he provides legal service for the government. According to his contract, he can only be paid for a maximum of 60 work days per quarter.

Fund to stop pension of double dippers

The NMI Retirement Fund board is determined to stop the pension payments of any government retiree found working again in public office, regardless of their new positions. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said that the Fund board made it clear during a meeting Thursday evening that the law against double dipping would be strictly implemented. "We have to stop the pension once we receive documents that they're hired again," said Reyes.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Navy training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Feb. 12-13 from 8:30am to 3:30pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000

nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

Town hall meeting at Kagman tomorrow

There will be a town hall meeting at the Kagman Community Center tomorrow,

Feb. 12, 2013, starting at 6pm. The new representatives of Precinct 5—Reps. Lorenzo "Larry" Deleon Guerrero and Antonio "Tony" R. Agulto—will meet and hear from Kagman residents. Everyone is invited. (PR)

MHS to host parent literacy workshops

Marianas High School is inviting all of its students and par-

ents to the first Partners in Print (Parent Literacy) Workshop. The first session is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the MHS Cafeteria from 5:30pm to 6:45pm. Come and enjoy Student-Parent-Teacher collaboration, door and raffle prizes, refreshments, and other great incentives. For more information, contact Bobby Cruz (237-3239) or Lorraine Catienza (237-3282). (PR)

DPL's Itibus re-elected board chair of CDA

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pedro I. Itibus has been re-elected board chairman for the Commonwealth Development Authority.

Board members unanimously elected Itibus, who works for the Department of Public Lands, during a meeting on Thursday.

Based on rules and regulations, CDA board members are required to elect their officers every two years.

Itibus said in an interview that he appreciates the vote of confidence by his fellow board directors. He said this is his fifth tenure as board chairman. His board appointment expires in September 2014.

"We've been working so hard together cohesively. We argue then come back and resolve whatever the difference is. It's a very healthy discussion," said Itibus, adding that he has enjoyed working with both board members and the CDA staff.

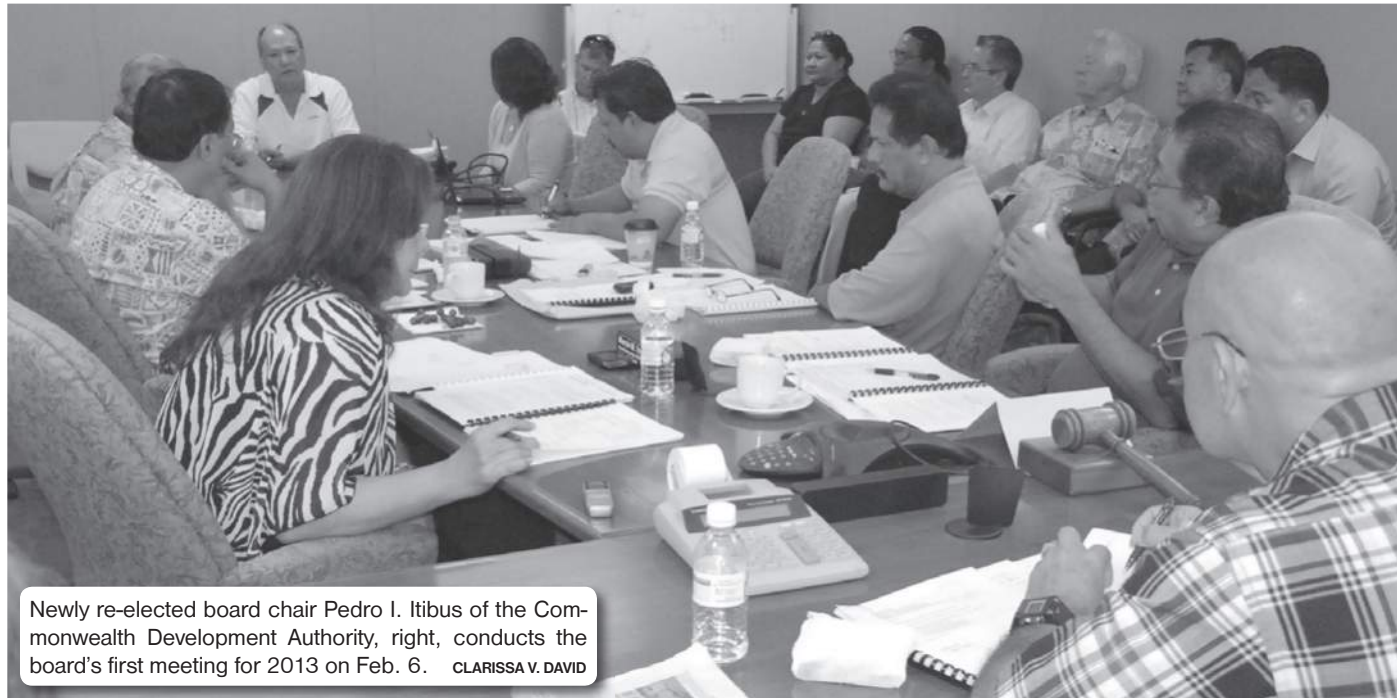
Itibus said his priorities under his current term as chairman is for the board to continue working out solutions to assist delinquent borrowers.

"We would like to look at our 2 percent interest reduction, whether we could go lower than that. But to go lower than that, we might as well just close the office," he added.

Itibus also said that he wants to see the State Small Business Credit Initiative move forward so that interested borrowers can avail of the program.

He said he is very optimistic that CDA is in a better position for a turnaround this year given the agency's efforts to generate savings.

These efforts, Itibus said, include their office relocation from the Wakin's Building in



Newly re-elected board chair Pedro I. Itibus of the Commonwealth Development Authority, right, conducts the board's first meeting for 2013 on Feb. 6. CLARISSA V. DAVID

Gualo Rai to Morgen Building in San Jose and the temporary closure of the Tinian office.

Reopening the Tinian office would depend on the agency's financial situation, he added.

With the SSBCI program up and running, Itibus said they are hoping to get more clients from Tinian "then maybe we can open the office again."

Also elected as board officers were Rota board representative Diego M. Songao as vice chairman and Tinian board representative Edwin P. Aldan as secretary.

Meanwhile, CDA's Development Corporation Division also held an election of officers during its Feb. 5 meeting. DCD elects its officers on their first meeting every year.

Rota's Tom Glenn Quitugua was re-elected chairman while Tinian's Edwin C. Hofschneider was selected vice chairman.

CDA is an autonomous public agency established in 1985 with the mission to provide economic loan funds to private and public sectors for economic development in the Northern Marianas.

Its board of directors is composed of Quitugua, Hofschneider, Itibus, Songao, Aldan, Saipan's Edward C. Sablan, and Marcie M. Tomokane.

Fundraising for a good cause

The U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance has fundraising events for the benefit of the winners of the Essay Contest on the West Philippine Sea.

"Bento for a Cause, a Special Valentine Gift," is a hot lunch that will be delivered on Feb. 14 between 11am and 12pm. Tickets are available for \$5 at authorized outlets and sellers.

An immigration forum will be held on Sunday, Feb. 17, from 3pm to 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, with attorney Loida Nicolas Lewis, national chairperson of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance and a former attorney general for 12 years of the Immigration and Naturalization Services, now USCIS.

Admission is \$5 and is on a first-come, first-served basis. The tickets bear the control numbers and official original signature of

the organizer. Participants will have a chance to win different prizes that will be raffled after the immigration forum.

"Holders of the tickets are advised to keep their tickets. Proceeds of the sales of the

tickets will go to the prizes of the winners of the Essay Contest on West Philippine Sea launched by the USP4GG Marianas chapter," said Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter.

Tickets are available at the following outlets and sellers: Cargo Express and KWA Radiocom at the Marianas Business Plaza. The authorized sellers of the tickets are Dr. Celia B. Lamkin, Gerry Malit, Rosendo Maceda, Marie Balle-

ros, Liberty Sayson, Nomer Arcangel, RV Caberos, and Fanny dela Rosa, Morena Nava and Philip Canuto of Island Florals and Gifts.

"We have received some negative feedback when volun-

teers were trying to sell the tickets to the Filipino community. They were afraid that it would be a scam because they were reminded of the incident last Dec. 8, 2011, immigration forum conducted by attorney

Ted Laguatan, USP4GG legal counsel and spokesperson, when these scammers collected money from them when, in fact, the forum was free. Now that we are selling the ticket at \$5 for admission to the immigration forum on Feb. 17, which is a legitimate fundraising, we are experiencing



Lewis

some resistance from Filipinos that we have helped before during the chaos and uncertainties of the transition of federalization. This fundraising will not go to our organization; it will go to the students who exerted their efforts to express their thoughts and insights about our own Philippines territory as a demonstration of their patriotism, care and loyalty to the Philippines," added Lamkin.

"We urge all the Filipinos in the CNMI to support this fundraising for a good cause. Let us show our Filipino way of generosity, cooperation, support and patriotism," said Lewis.

The US Pinoys for Good Governance is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in New York, headed by Lewis, national president Rodel Rodis, and Laguatan.

For more information, call Lamkin at 288-1714 or email her at celia.lamkin@yahoo.com. (PR)

Hunted ex-convict falls

Police arrested Wednesday night Milton B. Camacho, an ex-convict who is facing a new criminal case for allegedly stealing his nephew's iPad.

Police served the arrest warrant on the 32-year-old Camacho in Koblerville. His bail was set at \$5,000 cash. Preliminary hearing is on Feb. 13.

Police detective Olympio S. Muña stated in his report that Camacho stole his 5-year-old nephew's iPad 2 on Dec. 18, 2012,

On Monday, Camacho's sister called police to report that the suspect is on drugs and stole their mother's JVC TV, Muña said.

Camacho's sister is the mother of the 5-year-old boy who owns the iPad.

On Wednesday, police issued a press release that they were looking for Camacho.

Camacho was arrested several times in the past for various crimes. (Ferdie de la Torre)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Department of Commerce regulations under Title 20, Chapter 20-40, **Global Insurance, Inc.** issues this **PUBLIC NOTICE** of its intent to petition for the release of its security deposit in escrow for Global Insurance, Inc. issued labor surety bonds.

Any objection to such release must be filed within one week from the date of last publication of this notice to the CNMI Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Capital Hill, Saipan MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP13-DOF/REV-068

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TECHNICAL TAX CONSULTING SERVICES FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2013 AT 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-13-014

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities in Saipan, in compliance with USEPA inspection and sanitary survey requirements.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of \$80.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-014, Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for January 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Saipan, to ensure prospective bidders are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions.

CUC will award a contract to more than one firm for said services, based on bids for "Service Section" pursuant to Scope-of-Work.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the site conditions in the course of bidder's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 8, 2013 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Paul Raczkowski, Water/Wastewater Manager via address paul.raczkowski@cucgov.org

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



P.O. Box 500369 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel # (670) 234-6601 Fax # (670) 234-8007

Position : (4) WAITRESS

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with minimum of 2 years work experience preferably in hotel operations. Good customer service, communications and interpersonal skills are required. Ability to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/ or weekends. Must have fluency in English and Chinese language.

Applications can be obtained from Kanoa Resort's security office located on the Hotel's Backside. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than February 11, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort, is located next to Saipan World Resort Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 29Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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School choice: Providing hope and opportunity

By LINDSEY M. BURKE
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

“Outside of its legitimate functions, government does nothing as well or as economically as the private sector of the economy,” Ronald Reagan once said. Given the fact that markets outperform monopolies in every aspect of our lives, why do we consign something as important as education to government-run institutions?

The results of our assignment-by-ZIP code public-education system over the last half century show that we shouldn't. Graduation rates have remained stagnant since the 1970s, with roughly three-quarters of students graduating. In some of America's largest cities, fewer than half of all students complete high school.

Reading and math achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress—often referred to as the nation's “report card”—is lackluster. Across the country, just one-third of fourth-grade students are proficient in reading; a mere 40 percent are on grade level in math.

Even in what are traditionally thought of as the higher-performing suburban schools, academic achievement is woefully lacking. Researchers Jay Greene and Josh McGee found that “out of the nearly 14,000 public school districts in the U.S., only 6 percent have average student math achievement that would place them in the upper third of global performance.” Six percent.

School choice provides hope. It provides hope in the form of Rocketship Academy, a hybrid online learning charter school network. It provides hope in the form of Empowerment Scholarship Accounts, the pioneering Arizona initiative that allows parents to customize their child's educational experience with control over education funding. It provides hope in the form of a voucher for a low-income child in Washington, D.C., now able to fulfill her potential at a private school of choice.

Whether through education savings accounts, tax credit scholarship programs, vouchers, online learning, charter schools, or homeschooling, school choice allows access to quality education options that best match individual children's learning needs.

School choice has led to improved academic outcomes, higher graduation rates and increased student safety. It has improved parental satisfaction with their child's academic and social development, and satisfaction with their child's school overall. And it allows parents to access educational options that meet their child's unique learning needs.

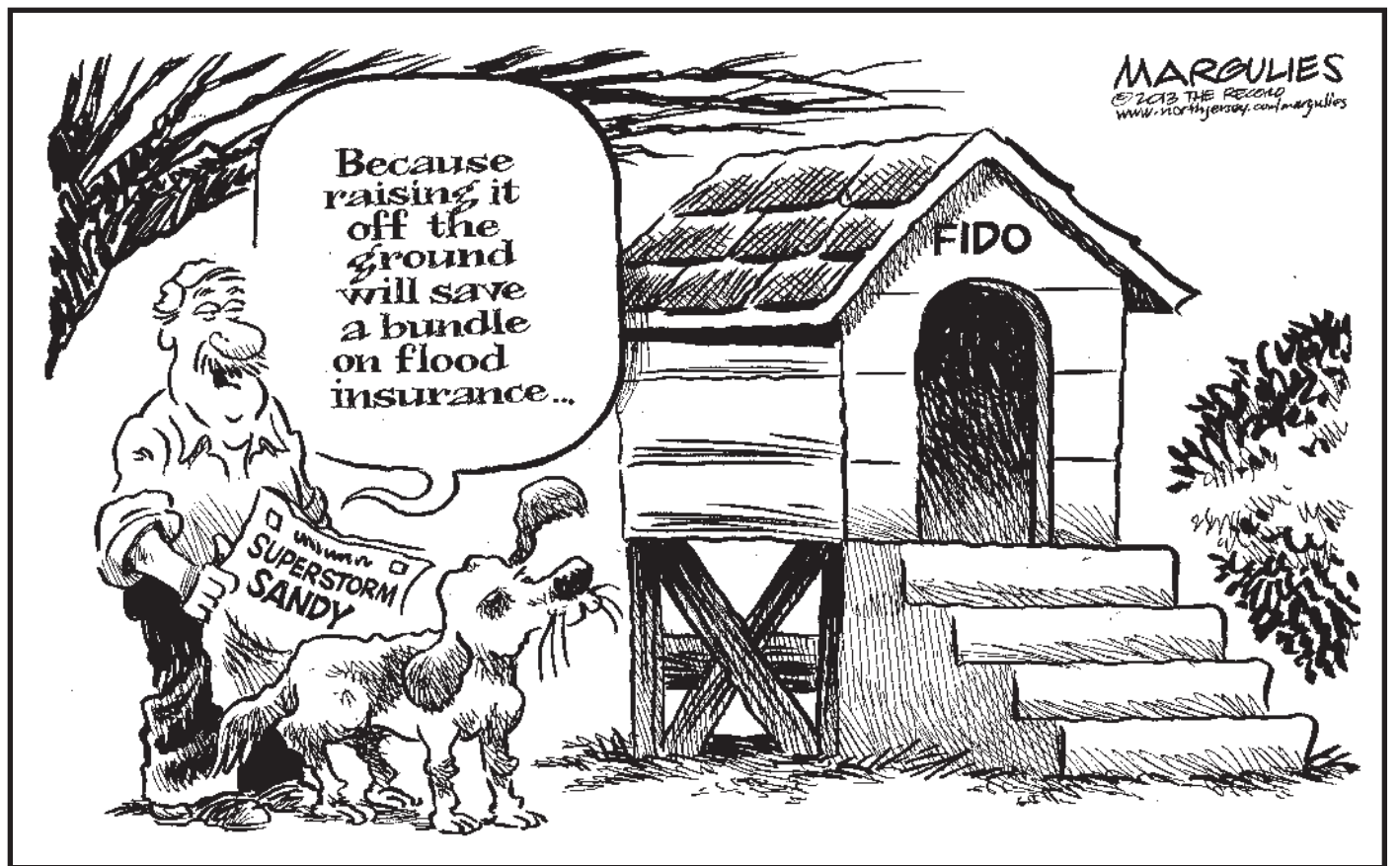
School choice also introduces competitive pressure on the public education system that lifts all boats, helping not only students who exercise school choice, but students who remain in public schools.

All the positive benefits of school choice were highlighted across the country recently as part of the third annual National School Choice Week. It's the world's largest-ever celebration of school choice, with events taking place in all 50 states. National School Choice Week is designed to show the success of choice, as well as the need to expand options for every child.

In all, 3,600 events took place across the country, including 2,500 events at schools, including public schools, private schools and magnet schools.

Some people say choice is no panacea for improving the American education system. That may be true. But choice creates the conditions necessary to spur schools to implement reforms and strategies that work—or risk losing students and their money.

Reforms such as performance pay for teachers and the elimination of “social promotion” have positive impacts on student learning. The best schools will embrace initiatives that work in order to

See **SCHOOL** on Next Page

How many US governors have been impeached and why?

The CNMI Legislature is about to file impeachment charges against Gov. Benigno Fitial. The House of Representatives, after intensive investigation, is ready to present its case for impeachment based on 18 charges. The case will then be sent to the Senate who will conduct a trial and decide whether or not our governor should be impeached. The governor can be impeached on just one of the 18 charges. It is a very serious situation the CNMI finds itself in. Let's review the act of impeachment as it has been applied to other governors in the United States.

In the United States, impeachment is an expressed power of the legislature that allows for formal charges against an elected official of government. Even presidents often had to face impeachment charges. The impeachment charges are for crimes committed in office. The actual trial on those charges, and subsequent removal of an official on conviction on those charges, is separate from the act of impeachment itself. Typically, the lower house of the legislature will impeach the official and the upper house will conduct the trial.

In the entire history of the United States, there have been eight U.S. governors impeached and removed from office:

1) The most recent case of impeachment was Jan. 14, 2009. Rod Blagojevich was removed as governor of Illinois on Jan. 29, 2009, and declared ineligible to hold public office in Illinois. Senators voted 59 to 0 to remove Rod Blagojevich. One of the more serious charges of corruption was that of trying to sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by now President Barack Obama. For a long period of time many elected official had long pondered impeaching Gov. Rod Blagojevich whom they assailed as arrogant and untrustworthy.

2) In 1988, the Arizona State House voted (46-14) and the Senate (21-9) impeached Gov. Evan Mecham after a state grand jury convicted him of six felony charges of fraud, perjury, and filing false documents. He served 15 months as governor.

3) In 1928, Henry S. Johnson, seventh governor of Oklahoma, was impeached but did not convict him. He was impeached again in 1929, (11 charges) and convicted of one charge—general incompetency.

4) Then in 1923, again the Oklahoma House of Representatives charged John C. Walton, the state's fifth governor, with 22 counts which included misappropriating public funds. Eleven were sustained. When an Oklahoma City grand jury prepared to investigate the governor's office, Walton put the entire state under martial law on Sept. 15, 1923, with “absolute martial law” applicable to the capital.

5) James E. Ferguson, governor of Texas, had been elected a second term in 1916, with the support of the prohibitionist. In his second term he became embroiled in a dispute with the University of Texas. In 1917, a Travis County grand jury indicted him on nine charges; one charge was embezzlement. The Texas Senate, acting as court of impeachment, convicted (25-3) Ferguson on 10 charges. Although Ferguson resigned before being convicted, the court of impeachment's judgment was sustained, preventing Ferguson from holding public office in Texas.

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



6) In 1913, the New York Senate convicted William Sulzer, governor of New York, of three charges of misappropriation of funds. This was the Tammany Hall era of New York politics. Tammany politicians, in the legislative majority, led the charge of diverting campaign contributions. Nevertheless, he was elected to the New York Assembly a few weeks later and later declined the American Party's nomination for President of the United States.

7) All the way back to 1871, David Butler was the first governor of Nebraska. He was removed on 11 counts of misappropriating funds that were targeted for education. He was found guilty of one count. In 1882, he was elected to the state Senate after the record of his impeachment was expunged.

8) Our earliest candidate for impeachment was in 1871, William W. Holden, governor of North Carolina. Holden was the most controversial state figure during the Reconstruction. He was instrumental in organizing the Republican Party in the state. Frederick W. Strudwick, a former Klan leader, introduced the resolution calling for Holden's impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors in 1890. The House approved eight articles of impeachment. After a partisan trial, the North Carolina Senate found him guilty on six charges.

Other governors have been removed, though not through impeachment. In 1871 William Woods Holden, governor of North Carolina, was removed. Then in 1872 Henry C. Warmoth, governor of Louisiana, was suspended from office, though a trial was not held. In 1879 Adelbert Ames, governor of Mississippi, resigned.

In addition, two U.S. presidents have been impeached by the House of Representatives but were acquitted at the trials held by the Senate. They were Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. U.S. President Richard Nixon resigned before the full House of Representatives could vote on any articles. Since the entire House did not vote, Nixon was never impeached.

There they are. However, there are quite a few of other appointed men other than governors who have been removed from office for various forms of misconduct. These men were men whom the people trusted, and then they turned that trust into selfish motives. How sad to have to live the remainder of one's life in shame and disgrace.

I know that the House has been doing a thorough investigation. Now it will send its results to the Senate where a trial will be held. Governor Fitial can be removed from office if six of nine senators

See **GOVERNORS** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lamasan Nana

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



In’ hassu antes i hagas kusinan fog’gun—kusinan nana—ni deste chatagmag asu? In’ hassu i mañge’ ninalagun hineg-sa’? In’ hassu i pau neñkanu gi aire ‘an chatagmag, talo’ane yan pupueñge? Ai, magahet hu sen agradese finapos yan estorian kusinan nana yan i lamasaña ‘nai mandadaña’ i familia diariamente.

Kada patgon guaha tarehaña che’chu’ guma’ kontodu muñgayu. Tai malefaghu nu este na patte gi hinanau mame kumu familia. Ti para ‘an chata’an ya fotgun i hayu. Ai na niñateñg matotne piot ya trabiha ti magaga’an hau ginen maigo’mu. Uttimoña paireyu’ huminegsa’ foggun kontodu finatinas totche siha. Paire lokue’ mapegan guihan yan katne gi hilu’ foggun ‘nai mana’ inasu (smoke) tula noche.

I lamasan nana unu na kosasña ni ma’ug gi halom kusina. Kada unu ha kake’ na’anña para u signifika ya sumaunauge’ guihe na lamasas. Un’ dia dispues de megaiña man-asagua, hu li’e’ ta’lu i lamasan nana mapega gi un’ banda.

Hana’ tuhu’ ñaihon lago’hu i megai man-mames siha na memorias gi oriyen ayu na lamasas antes. Kontodu hagas kuna mana’ suha buente pot todus esta man-dañkulu. Lau fitme, figu’ yan ma’ug ayu na lamasas ‘nai ha pogsai ham si nanan mame antes.

Sensian Komunida

Hihot i tautau siha gi komunida antes. Yangin para umahatsa fan-dañgeru man-mattu i bisinu dispues de obligasion ya magululume i che’chu’.

Lokue’, madibidi gi ayudante siha haye para u ñgayu, peska, mamunu’ ga’ga’, kusina yan pastre. Libianu mas i gai che’chu’ sa’ mangaige i bisinu yan man-atuñgu’ para u fan man-ayuda.

‘An manhuyuñg i peskadot, mana’ fan daña kineni’ niha ya mapatte todus familia siha gi señgsoñg. I mañgusecha ginen i gualu hana’ fan manage lokue’ i bisinu siha. Kanaha’ todus kinalamten pot hinemlu’ i komunida. Pot essu na fitme i pas yan inafamauleg gi antes siha na bisinu.

Kulan matulaikan ñaihon este piot ‘nai matutuhon mamueba siha

i tautau para i nuebu siha na soñgsoñg (homestead). Guaha ‘nai pot no ta ayu’us i bisinuta, ensegidas de manmattu hit ginen i che’chu’ ta huchom pettan i gima’ pot no tapan ma-estotba. In-aminasa hau magahet yangin un’ establese mauleg na relasion yan i bisinumu siha? Este na maña umaminasa dinaña komunida ni hagas tafa’ kustumbre.

Kinalamten todus

Ni TV pat radio guaha antes. I infotmasion publikamente mafattu gi dinaña i komunida gi halom kamalen ‘sino manu na dinaña’. Yangin guaha kuestion, ma-oppe. Mas hana’ metgot i pogse’ dinaña membron komunida gi hechuran este na inasoda’. Ginen este na dinaña ‘nai maseñañala haf’ che’chu’ linahyan ‘nai todus mañaunau.

Antes, megaiña besis huegon bola, omag tasi, todus klasen achai-kag, peskan tanu’ yan tasi, yan che’chu’ gualu ‘nai un’ soda’ i manhoben. Pa’gu, gaige gi menan TV, ipad, iphone, laptop games, texting, kontodu sexting. Mas man-obra yangin mafagcha’e’ man-konsentidot i mañaina pot no u fan ma-estotba. Fatsus este na atetun mañaina.

Magahet na mas fitme areglon famaguon antes. Guaha ‘nai na’mañau pa’gu man-aregla sa’ lagse’ gi pachot famaguon i para uma-agañg i DYS. Taya’ guaha lau kau haye gai gima’ yan areglu para umatatiye’

‘Nai umasodayu’ yan un’ tiahu, ilegña na “matetifgue”. Era ma-abirigua nu i detective pot guaha bidaña. Hu faisen dispues haf’ na ma-abiriguague’. Ilegña na ha panak i tiuhu ni maipen pan man-aflitu (frying pan) pot gai nobia palao’an China. Dios tiampare na anaku’ gera i dos. I otu biahen umasoda’ mame, guiya kinikilili’ ni un’ balakon Chinu. A’ Saina!

Humanau i tiuhu para u kone’ nobiaña palao’an China giya Garapan. ‘Nai sige guatu duru i baka de sineñas lau kadu’ tiha li’e. Era estaba i karetan polisia gi santatte ya probidu mañgone’ palao’an baggai. Dispues ‘nai ha kone’ i prohima lau nina’ pagamientun halom kareta sa’ todus ginaput pot hafague’ i kaduku.

Muna’ fañagu otu tiuhu palao’an China. Kulan estorian Moises gi biblia lau ti halom sadog ‘nai mapega i neni. Estaba gi tatten pick-up truck. Hafa’gue’ inosiente. Ha agañg i asaguaña ya hafanue’ nu i neni ya sige asu sekosña na “tailayen nana para u yute’ i patgon gi tatten pick-up”. Makone’ halom i neni gi halom guma ya siha pumogsai ñaihon estake magacha’ i paire na linilesña i mafa’ si Moises gi halom kanastra. Ai i che’chu’ konkabidu ni mana’ binalutan madog na tampen sinetnan.

Mamaisen un’ polisia haf’ na madagau huyuñg kausaña ni kotte

become arrogant and dictatorial. Soon they began to feel beyond reproach. Anything they wished to do they tried until the people rose up and threw them out. Greed, self-pride, and arrogance became their downfall.

As I have repeatedly written in various columns, I firmly believe that our beloved CNMI has great potentials for prosperity. But it will take a leader who truly and sincerely loves us. His leadership must motivate us to great heights.

Let us recall what we are today and look back at the positive influences in our lives. I know if my parents hadn’t encouraged me to strive and do something positive with my life, I may have become a burden to my society. I also attribute my status in life to several school teachers and several men who always inspired me. Isn’t that true in your lives also?

I pray that our elected leaders will make the right decision in the next few weeks. I also pray that after this matter is settled, we will go back to improving our lives and be motivated by an inspired leader. Let us continue our interest in this historical decision so that we will not make the same mistake again. Have a great week!

what “public education” means. By thinking in terms of educating the public, not in terms of government-run schools. Next, they can reconfigure education funding formulas to provide children—not institutions—with education funds, following the children to the school or education option of their parents’ choice.

Over the past century, Americans have been the beneficiaries of countless advances in technology, industry, and their general quality of life. American education however, has proven largely impervious to innovation, and the benefits thereof.

That can and must change. It all begins with school choice.

Lindsey M. Burke is the Will Skillman Fellow in Education Policy at The Heritage Foundation.

pot un’ prohimu ni ti sumaga gi Stop sign. Ilegña i magasña, “Sa’ tiha tuñgu’ i jues haf’ ‘Spot Sing’ (Stop Sign) ni un’ tuge’ gi papet”. Fotmat ha tuge’, “Did not Spot on the Spot Sing”. Ai, fan pasensia sa’ ti liñguahita i finu’ Iñglis lai. Hombre gi fina’ konbetsasion gai minapot kuandu menos gi para matuge’.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In memoriam

When I heard about the passing of my classmate, colleague, mentor and fellow teacher, I felt that another icon has gone. Dirk and I followed surprisingly parallel paths. He joined the Peace Corps and went to work in the Philippines and I went to Ecuador. We both wound up teaching in an experimental program for returned volunteers at Cardozo high school in Washington, D.C. As part of that program, we were both enrolled for MAT degrees at Howard U as part of the program. Dirk finished his MA and returned to the Peace Corps Micronesia. Since he was one year ahead of me and was my master teacher, I remained another year at Cardozo getting only 24 units of MAT credits and taking off for Africa, specifically the Ivory Coast as Peace Corps staff member. Although I went a more circuitous route (via Somalia and Chuuk) he wound up at the University of Guam and I wound up with the Trust Territory government and NMC.

The experience of working with Dirk both directly and indirectly was a big part of my own foundation in education. The Cardozo project was based on inductive learning, which was drilled into us very effectively. All of those who participated in that program came out better teachers in a large part because of Dirk’s own personality and ability to work with different kinds of students. I would be remiss if I did not note that a lot of our success in the education profession was due to the experience we had in working with some wonderful students at Cardozo high school. I know Dirk learned as much as I did, at least from that experience and the project staff, which included Dirk in the last year that he was there.

I will always look back at my teaching experience, formal and informal, as being based on the Cardozo project with Dirk as being a principal part. He has gone to a bigger classroom now where I am sure he will be voted teacher the year soon.

To his lovely wife Cisca and his daughter who came to live with him in Guam, I extend my condolences. May these two ladies be blessed for all the help they gave to care for him in his waning years.

Sam McPhetres
Garapan, Saipan

A man named ‘RB’

While everyone is worrying about what to do in the absence of funding to complete a task, one person is in the frontline, working without a budget. The only thing he’s got is his heart, the community, and the involvement of everyone he’s working with. And he’s got tasks!

Councilman Ramon B. Camacho, or RB, as he is usually known, believes that when people become involved, things get done and things actually happen. He trusts his heart telling him that his greatest asset is his community. Getting his people involved is the real business, which matches his name RB, “Real Business.”

Aside from being president of the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association, he plans and executes tasks such as the “Adopt a Place” and the “Neighborhood Watch.” He gets the Neighborhood Watch to do massive brush clearing, thus cleaning up hiding places for criminals and in itself a beautification effort. That makes our community more presentable for our visitors to remember us by.

Religious organizations and businesses are very much involved in the “Adopt a Place” program. They do roadside cleaning and clearing, painting, and bush-cutting hedges of grass along the roadsides of Saipan. Pints of paint are coming in from businesses making donations. Bush cutters, paint brushes, and other needed items for cleaning and clearing are all pouring in from the business community.

As president for the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association, RB makes sure that they get the best shot at opportunities to market their produce locally and abroad. Twice a week farmers are gathered on Saipan to sell their produce and to mingle with each other sharing ideas and making plans. So what do you say of a man named “RB”?

Alexandro Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

GOVERNORS

From Page 10

so decide on even one of the 18 charges.

Having known the governor for many years on a personal basis, I have my own opinions, which I shall keep to myself. But I have witnessed a negative change come over him during the years, which has finally brought him to the edge of being forced out of office.

I leave it up to the Senate to make the final decision. Whatever decision will be made will affect our immediate future. We need to become a united community again with trust in our elected officials. Washington is watching us closely as is the whole United States and territories.

In reading the history of various leaders, both elected and installed through force, one common ground seems to run through all of them. All of them started with good intentions. But as their tenure in office continued, a change began to take place. As they began to feel the power and respect or fear they wielded, they began to

SCHOOL

From Page 10

provide the best education possible to their students.

There are a host of other reform measures that schools can and should pursue. Without the competition presented by choice, they have little incentive to do so. Choice is the catalyst for the systemic reform that is so desperately needed.






Parents should be able to choose where their children attend school. And they should have the freedom to finance those options with their share of education funding, in a flexible manner that allows education to be customized.

State and local policymakers can begin by re-imagining

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Yap	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 81
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 81
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 81

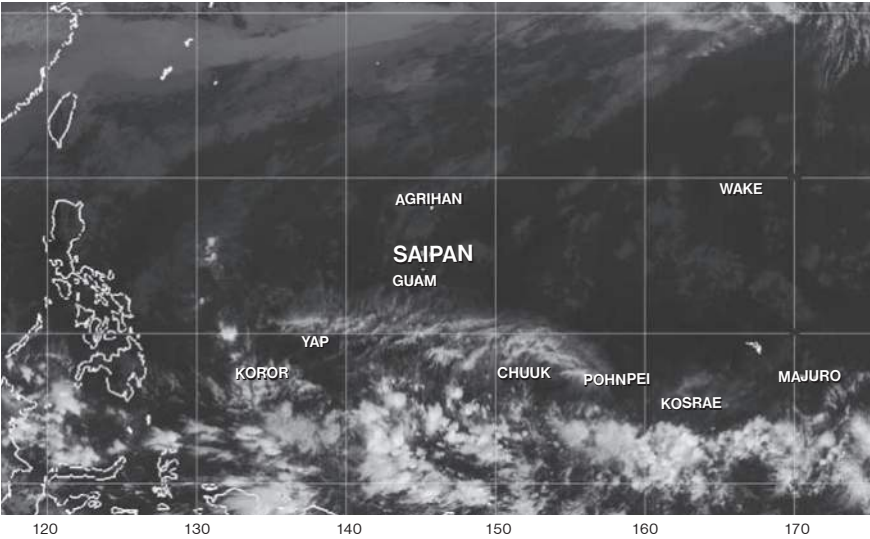
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 31 ▼ 15
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 65
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 68
London	Ice	▲ 38 ▼ 35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 43
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 68
New York	Showers	▲ 42 ▼ 36
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 34
Paris	Showers	▲ 41 ▼ 31
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 41 ▼ 26
Rome	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 42
Salem	Sunny	▲ 50 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 43
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 29 ▼ 16
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 43

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
8:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N140E to beyond 130E at 22N. Low clouds and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 170 miles northwest of this boundary. A shear line stretches southwestward from near Minami Tori Shima at 25N154E to 18N137E. Low clouds and scattered light showers are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this feature. A surface trough curves southward from 18N134E to 13N132E to 5N137E. Scattered showers are found north of Koror within 150 miles of a line from 18N135E to 14N132E to 9N135E. A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward from 2N130E to a weak circulation centered southwest of Pohnpei at 1N157E. Scattered showers are found southwest of Koror between 5N and the equator from 130E to 136E farther east. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are located south of Koror and Yap south of a line from 7N136E to 1N148E. Similar weather is found just south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 7N and the equator from 150E to 160E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kosrae and the Marshall Islands south of a line from 4N160E to 4N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Wednesday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:01 AM	7:13 PM
Tuesday	7:46 AM	8:07 PM
Wednesday	8:29 AM	9:00 PM
Thursday	9:10 AM	9:52 PM
Friday	9:52 AM	10:43 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SEUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 102	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Economy to be Obama's focus in State of the Union

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will focus his State of the Union address on boosting job creation and economic growth at a time of high unemployment, underscoring the degree to which the economy could threaten his ability to pursue second-term priorities such as gun control, immigration policy and climate change.

Obama also may use Tuesday's prime-time address before a joint session of Congress to announce the next steps for concluding the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

Obama's State of the Union marks his second high-profile speech to the nation in about three weeks, after his inaugural address Jan. 21 that opened his second term. White House aides see the two speeches as complementary, with Tuesday's address aimed at providing specifics to back up some of the Inauguration Day's lofty liberal rhetoric.

The president previewed the address during a meeting Thursday with House Democrats and said he would speak "about making sure that we're focused on job creation here in the Uni-

ed States of America." Obama said he would try to accomplish that by calling for improvements in education, boosting clean energy production, and reducing the deficit in ways that don't burden the middle class, the poor or the elderly.



Obama

While those priorities may be cheered by some Democrats, they're certain to be met with skepticism or outright opposition from many congressional Republicans, especially in the GOP-controlled House.

The parties are at odds over ways to reduce the deficit. Republicans favor spending cuts; Obama prefers a combination of spending cuts and increasing tax revenue.

The president said he would address taxes and looming across-the-board budget cuts, known as the sequester, in the speech. The White House and Congress have pushed back the automatic cuts once, and Obama wants to do it again in order to create an opening for a larger deficit reduction deal.

"I am prepared, eager and anxious to do a big deal, a big package that ends this governance by crisis where every two

weeks or every two months or every six months we are threatening this hard-won recovery," he said last week.

The economy has rebounded significantly from the depths of the recession and has taken a back seat for Obama since he won re-election in November. He's instead focused on campaigns to overhaul the nation's patchwork immigration laws and enact stricter gun control measures following the massacre of 20 schoolchildren in Newtown, Conn., in December.

The president also raised expectations for action this year on climate change after devoting a significant amount of time to the issue in his address at the inauguration.

But the unemployment rate is persistently high at 7.9 percent, economic growth slowed last quarter and consumer confidence is falling, so the economy could upend Obama's plans to pursue a broader domestic agenda in his final four years in office.

Tony Fratto, who worked in the White House during President George W. Bush's second term, said Obama has to show the public that he's still focused on the economy before he can get their full support for his other proposals.

Flights resume at NYC airports after snowstorm

NEW YORK (AP)—New York's airports dug out from under nearly a foot of snow and started letting flights resume Saturday, while Boston's Logan Airport remained closed.

Logan Airport said it expects to open one runway by 11 p.m. Across the region, flights were expected to be back on close to normal schedules on Sunday, though flight-tracking website FlightAware said 115 Sunday flights had been cancelled as of Saturday evening.

Even with flights resuming, the airlines recommended that travelers check their websites before heading out to the airport.

Meanwhile, Amtrak said the New York-Boston train route would remain closed Saturday as crews cleared tracks of snow and fallen trees. Some trains

will start running again on Sunday, Amtrak said.

Trains were running south from New York on Saturday, and between New York and Albany.

Airports in the Northeast shut down Friday afternoon as a snowstorm of potentially historic proportions blew in. The storm brought more than 2 feet of snow in some parts of New England and left more than 650,000 homes and businesses without power at its peak.

These days, airlines try to get ahead of big storms by canceling flights in advance. They want to avoid having crews and planes stuck in one area of the country. They also face fines for leaving passengers stuck on a plane for more than three hours under a rule that went into effect in 2010.

FlightAware said airlines have canceled nearly 5,400 flights since Friday because of the storm. Airlines have waived the usual fees to change tickets for flights in the affected areas.

Hardest hit was United Airlines. It has cancelled 710 Friday, Saturday and Sunday flights, according to FlightAware. That doesn't include regional airlines operating as United Express. The count almost doubles when including those, United spokeswoman Megan McCarthy said.

Delta Air Lines cancelled 1,200 flights, including regional Delta Connection flights operated by partners.

Daniel Baker, CEO of FlightAware, noted that the timing of this storm worked in the airlines' favor.

New Jersey, while it was just a tropical depression bouncing around the Caribbean, the captain of the tall ship Picton Castle decided to play it safe and stay home. It was scheduled to leave Nova Scotia on Oct. 22 but delayed by 12 days, said Susan Corkum-Greek, general manager of the ship's operator, Windward Isles Sailing Ship Co. Ltd. Capt. Daniel Moreland thought it better to stay put than sail south while the storm could be churning north.

tracking website FlightAware, the aircraft flew for 1,131 miles, slightly more than the 919 planned. The Federal Aviation Administration granted permission for test flights on Thursday.

Panel to look at tall ship's sinking during Sandy

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—More than a week before Hurricane Sandy became a superstorm that would zero in on New York and

Nation

New England begins the big dig-out after epic snow

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—New Englanders began the back-breaking job of digging out from as much as 3 feet of snow Saturday and emergency crews used snowmobiles to reach shivering motorists stranded overnight on New York's Long Island after a howling storm swept through the Northeast.

About 475,000 homes and businesses remained without power late Saturday night, down from a peak of about 650,000, and some could be cold and dark for days. Roads across the New York-to-Boston corridor of roughly 25 million people were impassable. Cars were entombed by drifts. Some people found the wet, heavy snow packed so

high against their homes they couldn't get their doors open.

"It's like lifting cement. They say it's 2 feet, but I think it's more like 3 feet," said Michael Levesque, who was shoveling snow in Quincy, Mass., for a landscaping company.

In Providence, where the drifts were 5 feet high and telephone lines encrusted with ice and snow drooped under the weight, Jason Harrison labored for nearly three hours to clear his blocked driveway and front walk and still had more work to do. His snowblower, he said, "has already paid for itself."

At least five deaths in the U.S. were blamed on the overnight snowstorm, including an 11-year-old boy in Boston who was overcome by carbon mon-

oxide as he sat in a running car to keep warm while his father shoveled Saturday morning.

Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee cautioned that while the snow had stopped, the danger hadn't passed: "People need to take this storm seriously, even after it's over. If you have any kind of heart condition, be careful with the shoveling."

Blowing with hurricane-force winds of more than 80 mph in places, the storm hit hard along the heavily populated Interstate 95 corridor between New York City and Maine. Milford, Conn., got 38 inches of snow, and Portland, Maine, recorded 31.9, shattering a 1979 record. Several communities in New York and across New England got more than 2 feet.



AP

April Palmieri digs out her car in front of her home, background left, on 17th Street after a snow storm on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013 in Bayville, N.Y.

Flaws found in US missile shield

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secret Defense Department studies cast doubt on whether a multibillion-dollar missile defense system planned for Europe can ever protect the U.S. from Iranian missiles as intended, congressional investigators say.

Military officials say they believe they can overcome the problems and are moving forward with plans. But proposed fixes could prove difficult. One possibility has been ruled out as technically unfeasible. A second, relocating missile interceptors planned for Poland and possibly Romania to ships on the North Sea, could be diplomatically troublesome.

The studies are the latest to highlight serious problems for a plan that has been criticized on several fronts.

Republicans claim it was developed hastily in an attempt to appease Russia, which had opposed an earlier system. But

Russia is also critical of the plan, which it believes is really intended to counter its missiles. A series of governmental and scientific reports has raised questions about whether it would ever work as planned.

At a time that the military faces giant budget cuts, the studies could lead Congress to reconsider whether it is worthwhile to spend billions for a system that may not fulfill its original goals.

The classified studies were summarized in a briefing for lawmakers by the Government Accountability Office, Congress' nonpartisan investigative and auditing arm, which is preparing a report. The GAO briefing, which was not classified, was obtained by The Associated Press.

Military officials declined repeated requests to discuss the studies on the record, noting they were classified. Even speaking on condition of ano-

nymity, officials declined to say whether the GAO accurately had reported its conclusions. But the briefing had been reviewed by several Defense Department officials and the revisions they requested were incorporated. There was no indication they had objected to how the studies had been described.

The officials who spoke to the AP emphasized that the interceptor intended to protect the United States is in the early stages of development and its capabilities are not known. They said that the U.S. is already protected by other missile defense systems. Even if European-based interceptors are unable to directly defend the United States, they say they would protect not only European allies and U.S. troops stationed on the continent, but also U.S. radars there that are necessary for all U.S. missile defense plans.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Boeing sends 787 on test flight from Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)—Boeing sent a 787 up on a test flight Saturday, the first since the new airliner was grounded three weeks ago because of a battery fire. The aircraft took off from Boeing Field in Seattle and spent nearly two and a half hours flying back and forth over the inland Columbia Plateau. It landed at Boeing Field shortly before 3 p.m. PST. According to flight-

LAPD to reopen probe into fugitive ex-cop's firing

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (AP)—The hunt for a former Los Angeles police officer suspected in three killings continued in snow-covered mountains Saturday as the LAPD's chief said he would reopen the disciplinary case that led to the fugitive's firing and new details emerged of the evidence he left behind.

Officials will re-examine the allegations by Christopher

Dorner, 33, that his law enforcement career was undone by racist colleagues, Police Chief Charlie Beck said. While he promised to hear out Dorner if he surrenders, Beck stressed

that he was ordering a review of his 2007 case because he takes the allegation of racism in his department seriously.

"I do this not to appease a murderer. I do it to reassure the

public that their police department is transparent and fair in all the things we do," the chief said in a statement.

Authorities suspect Dorner in a series of attacks in Southern

California over the past week that left three people dead, including a police officer. Authorities say he has vowed revenge against several former LAPD colleagues whom he blames for ending his career. The killings and threats that Dorner allegedly made in an online rant have

led police to provide protection to 50 families, Beck said.

A captain who was named a target in the manifesto posted on Facebook told the Orange County Register he has not stepped outside his house since he learned of the threat, and he was taking it seriously.

LEGAL NOTICE

To merchants who have accepted Visa and MasterCard at any time since January 1, 2004: Notice of a 6+ billion dollar class action settlement.

WHAT MERCHANTS WILL GET FROM THE SETTLEMENT

Every merchant in the Cash Settlement Class that files a valid claim will get money from the \$6.05 billion Cash Fund, subject to a deduction (not to exceed 25% of the fund) to account for merchants who exclude themselves from the Cash Settlement Class. The value of each claim, where possible, will be based on the actual or estimated interchange fees attributable to the merchant's MasterCard and Visa payment card transactions from January 1, 2004 to November 28, 2012. Payments to merchants who file valid claims for a portion of the Cash Fund will be based on:

- The money available to pay all claims,
- The total dollar value of all valid claims filed,
- The deduction described above not to exceed 25% of the Cash Settlement Fund, and
- The cost of settlement administration and notice, money awarded to the class representatives, and attorneys' fees and expenses all as approved by the Court.

In addition, merchants in the Cash Settlement Class that accept Visa and MasterCard during the eight-month Interchange Period and file a valid claim will get money from the separate Interchange Fund, estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion. The value of each claim, where possible, will be based on an estimate of one-tenth of 1% of the merchant's Visa and MasterCard credit card dollar sales volume during that period. Payments to merchants who file valid claims for a portion of the Interchange Fund will be based on:

- The money available to pay all claims,
- The total dollar value of all valid claims filed, and
- The cost of settlement administration and notice, and any attorneys' fees and expenses that may be approved by the Court.

Attorneys' fees and expenses and money awarded to the class representatives: For work done through final approval of the settlement by the district court, Class Counsel will ask the Court for attorneys' fees in an amount that is a reasonable proportion of the Cash Settlement Fund, not to exceed 11.5% of the Cash Settlement Fund of \$6.05 billion and 11.5% of the Interchange Fund estimated to be \$1.2 billion to compensate all of the lawyers and their law firms that have worked on the class case. For additional work to administer the settlement, distribute both funds, and through any appeals, Class Counsel may seek reimbursement at their normal hourly rates, not to exceed an additional 1% of the Cash Settlement Fund of \$6.05 billion and an additional 1% of the Interchange Fund estimated to be \$1.2 billion. Class Counsel will also request reimbursement of their expenses (not including the administrative costs of settlement or notice), not to exceed \$40 million and up to \$200,000 per Class Plaintiff in service awards for their efforts on behalf of the classes.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 3 wounded in shooting on Bourbon Street

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Police say three people have been shot on crowded Bourbon Street in New Orleans as revelers were partying during Mardi Gras. New Orleans police spokesman Frank B. Robertson said two males and a female were shot just before 9:30 p.m. local time. He says one person is in critical condition and the other two are in stable condition. He did not release their ages. Robertson says detectives are working vigorously to identify a suspect and determine a motive. He did not have any other details. The streets were crawling with bar-hopping revelers as they celebrate the weekend before Fat Tuesday.

Mass. boy dies of carbon monoxide in running car

BOSTON (AP)—An 11-year-old Massachusetts boy died of carbon monoxide poisoning Saturday after being overcome as he sat in a running car to keep warm, while his father was shoveling snow to get the car out of a snow bank. Boston Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald said the boy was helping his father shovel the snow in the Dorchester neighborhood but got cold, so his father started the car and the boy got inside the vehicle. MacDonald said the car exhaust was covered by a snow bank, causing the fumes to collect in the car. "I don't know how long the boy was in the car, at some point the father was still working and was unaware of the boy's condition," said Boston firefighter Octavius Rowe, who lives nearby and went to help. "So very, very unfortunate."

Chicago remembers teen victim of city gun violence

CHICAGO (AP)—Hundreds of mourners and dignitaries including first lady Michelle Obama packed the funeral Saturday for a Chicago honor student whose killing catapulted her into the nation's debate over gun violence. Yet one speaker after another remembered 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton not so much as a symbol but as a best friend, an excellent student with dreams of going to college and a sometimes goofy girl with a bright smile and big personality.

Notice of a class action settlement authorized by the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York.

This notice is authorized by the Court to inform you about an agreement to settle a class action lawsuit that may affect you. The lawsuit claims that Visa and MasterCard, separately, and together with banks, violated antitrust laws and caused merchants to pay excessive fees for accepting Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards, including by:

- Agreeing to set, apply, and enforce rules about merchant fees (called *default interchange fees*);
- Limiting what merchants could do to encourage their customers to use other forms of payment through, for example, charging customers an extra fee or offering discounts; and
- Continuing that conduct after Visa and MasterCard changed their corporate structures.

The defendants say they have done nothing wrong. They say that their business practices are legal and the result of competition, and have benefitted merchants and consumers. The Court has not decided who is right because the parties agreed to a settlement. On November 27, 2012, the Court gave preliminary approval to this settlement.

THE SETTLEMENT

Under the settlement, Visa, MasterCard, and the bank defendants have agreed to make payments to two settlement funds:

- The first is a "Cash Fund" – a \$6.05 billion fund that will pay valid claims of merchants that accepted Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards at any time between January 1, 2004 and November 28, 2012.
- The second is an "Interchange Fund" – estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion – that will be based on a portion of the interchange fees attributable to certain merchants that accept Visa or MasterCard credit cards for an eight-month "Interchange Period."

Additionally, the settlement changes some of the Visa and MasterCard rules applicable to merchants who accept their cards.

This settlement creates two classes:

- A *Cash Settlement Class* (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class), which includes all persons, businesses, and other entities that accepted any Visa or MasterCard cards in the U.S. at any time from January 1, 2004 to November 28, 2012, and
- A *Rule Changes Settlement Class* (Rule 23(b)(2) Settlement Class), which includes all persons, businesses, and entities that as of November 28, 2012 or in the future accept any Visa or MasterCard cards in the U.S.

www.PaymentCardSettlement.com

Asia

Fewer New Year fireworks in polluted Beijing

HOW TO ASK FOR PAYMENT

To receive payment, merchants must fill out a claim form. If the Court finally approves the settlement, and you do not exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement Class, you will receive a claim form in the mail or by email. Or you may ask for one at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com, or call: 1-800-625-6440.

OTHER BENEFITS FOR MERCHANTS

Merchants will benefit from changes to certain MasterCard and Visa rules, which will allow merchants to, among other things:

- Charge customers an extra fee if they pay with Visa or MasterCard credit cards,
- Offer discounts to customers who do not pay with Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards, and
- Form buying groups that meet certain criteria to negotiate with Visa and MasterCard.

Merchants that operate multiple businesses under different trade names or banners will also be able to accept Visa or MasterCard at fewer than all of the merchant's trade names and banners.

LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

Merchants who are included in this lawsuit have the legal rights and options explained below. You may:

- **File a claim to ask for payment.** You will receive a claim form in the mail or email or file online at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.
- **Exclude yourself** from the Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class). If you exclude yourself, you can sue the Defendants for damages based on alleged conduct occurring on or before November 27, 2012 on your own at your own expense, if you want to. If you exclude yourself, you will not get any money from this settlement. If you are a merchant and wish to exclude yourself, you must make a written request, place it in an envelope, and mail it with postage prepaid and postmarked no later than **May 28, 2013** to Class Administrator, Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement, P.O. Box 2530, Portland, OR 97208-2530. The written request must be signed by a person authorized to do so and provide all of the following information: (1) the words "In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation," (2) your full name, address, telephone number, and taxpayer identification number, (3) the merchant that wishes to be excluded from the Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class), and what position or authority you have to exclude the merchant, and (4) the business names, brand names, and addresses of any stores or sales locations whose sales the merchant desires to be excluded.
Note: You cannot be excluded from the Rule Changes Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(2) Settlement Class).
- **Object to the settlement.** The deadline to object is: **May 28, 2013**. To learn how to object, see: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com or call 1-800-625-6440. *Note: If you exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement Class you cannot object to the terms of that portion of the settlement.*

For more information about these rights and options, visit: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

IF THE COURT APPROVES THE FINAL SETTLEMENT

Members of the Rule Changes Settlement Class are bound by the terms of this settlement. Members of the Cash Settlement Class, who do not exclude themselves by the deadline, are bound by the terms of this settlement whether or not they file a claim for payment. Members of both classes release all claims against all released parties listed in the Settlement Agreement. The settlement will resolve and release any claims by merchants against Visa, MasterCard or other defendants that were or could have been alleged in the lawsuit, including any claims based on interchange or other fees, no-surcharge rules, no-discounting rules, honor-all-cards rules and other rules. The settlement will also resolve any merchant claims based upon the future effect of any Visa or MasterCard rules, as of November 27, 2012 and not to be modified pursuant to the settlement, the modified rules provided for in the settlement, or any other rules substantially similar to any such rules. The releases will not bar claims involving certain specified standard commercial disputes arising in the ordinary course of business.

For more information on the release, see the settlement agreement at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

THE COURT HEARING ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT

On September 12, 2013, there will be a Court hearing to decide whether to approve the proposed settlement, class counsels' requests for attorneys' fees and expenses, and awards for the class representatives. The hearing will take place at:

United States District Court for the
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11201

You do not have to go to the court hearing or hire an attorney. But you can if you want to, at your own cost. The Court has appointed the law firms of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP, Berger & Montague, PC, and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP to represent the Class ("Class Counsel").

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this case (*In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 1720), you may:

Call toll-free: 1-800-625-6440
Visit: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com
Write to the Class Administrator:

Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement
P.O. Box 2530
Portland, OR 97208-2530
Email: info@PaymentCardSettlement.com

Please check www.PaymentCardSettlement.com for any updates relating to the settlement or the settlement approval process.

BEIJING (AP)—The annual Lunar New Year fireworks barrage in Beijing was notably muted Sunday following government appeals to reduce the smoky celebrations after air pollution rose to near catastrophic levels over recent weeks.

China's capital saw almost twice the number of smoggy days in January, with levels of small particle air pollution going off the charts at times. That prompted calls for restraint, along with a reduction in the number of licensed fireworks sellers and amount of fireworks on sale.

The fusillades that began on Lunar New Year's eve on Saturday night started later than usual but still grew to furious intensity at midnight. They also died out earlier than usual on Sunday morning and relatively few explosions were heard during the day.

Setting off fireworks to celebrate renewal and ward off evil spirits is a traditional part of the celebration that marks China's most important family holiday.

Sales of fireworks from Tuesday to Saturday fell 37 percent over the same period last year, from 410,000 cartons to just 260,000, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing figures from the city government. The city authorized 1,337 fireworks stands this year, down from 1,429 last year, and allowed 750,000 cartons of fireworks to go on sale, down from 810,000.

The Beijing Daily, the city government's official newspaper, carried appeals last week for residents to hold off on fireworks celebrations, saying not doing so would significantly worsen levels of PM2.5 particle pollution forecast to be in the hazardous zone. City environmental bureau readings showed levels well above 200 in most parts of the city Sunday, dangerous but still well below readings of more than 700 seen last month, when Beijing experienced 23 days of smog, up from 10 the previous January.

Beijing was largely helpless in the face of the January smog, while schools canceled outdoor activities, some factories closed and government cars were ordered off the streets. Scores of people, especially the young and elderly, were treated at hospital for respiratory problems, elevated blood pressure, and heart complaints.

Last year's fireworks display created a thick haze that sent 2.5 microgram pollution levels as high as 1,500.

Beijing on Saturday night also saw just 25 injuries and 83 fire emergencies related to fireworks, down almost 29 percent and 45 percent, respectively, from last year.

1-800-625-6440 • info@PaymentCardSettlement.com

A S I A

Filipino extremists face new foe: fellow rebels



In this Jan. 15, 2013 file photo, Khabir Malik, Commander of the Moro National Liberation Front, a Muslim rebel group which signed a 1996 peace pact with the Philippine government briefs his comrades at Patikul township, on the volatile island of Jolo in southern Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—After years of fighting the government from hidden jungle bases in the southern Philippines, an Al-Qaida-linked militant group is facing a new adversary: fellow Muslim insurgents who can match their guerrilla battle tactics and are eager to regain their lost stature by fighting the widely condemned terrorist group.

The emerging enmity between the Abu Sayyaf militants and the Moro rebels could bolster a decade-long campaign by the Philippines and Western countries to isolate the al-Qaida offshoot Abu Sayyaf, which remains one of the most dangerous groups in Southeast Asia.

In their first known major clash, Abu Sayyaf gunmen battled rebels from the larger Moro National Liberation Front in fighting early this week, leaving at least 22 combatants dead in the mountainous jungles on southern Jolo Island. A Moro rebel was beheaded—Abu Sayyaf's signature act.

Bonded by blood ties and war, the two armed groups had co-existed for years on Jolo in a predominantly Muslim region, where abject poverty, guns and weak law enforcement have combined in an explosive mix to fuel their rebellions and pockets of lawlessness.

The trouble began after the Moro rebels—seeking to regain their former dominance in the region—tried to arrange the release of several hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf, including a prominent Jordanian TV journalist and two European tourists. When the Abu Sayyaf commanders refused to free the hostages, Moro rebels launched an attack.

The Moro rebels are now trying to rescue the captives and end the Abu Sayyaf's reign, Moro commander Khabir Malik told The Associated Press.

"We breathe the same air, speak the same language and live and fight in the same jungle," he said by telephone. "We're a bigger force and we cannot allow this small group to reign with this brutality."

For years, a shadowy alliance is believed to have existed between the groups. While the Moro rebels signed a limited peace deal with the government years ago, some Moro commanders are suspected of giving sanctuary to Abu Sayyaf men and carrying out kidnappings for ransom with them.

"Collusion between the Abu Sayyaf Group and MNLF members—many of whom are relatives—on Jolo is a major reason why large swaths of the island have been essentially ungovern-

able for years," said Bryony Lau of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group think tank. The government "should consider whether the recent clash has shifted relations between them in a way that could make it easier to isolate senior figures of the Abu Sayyaf Group."

But the rift offers no easy answers for the Philippines. Weaning the Moro rebels from hardened militants would mean a true government alliance with the rebels, some of whom are suspected of involvement in attacks on civilians and government forces.

Walking a tightrope amid the clashes, President Benigno Aquino III said the Moro offensive was not sanctioned by his government. But government officials also are not trying to stop the fighting, presumably hoping each group weakens the other. Police and soldiers have simply set up checkpoints to seal off the area around the fighting, trying to keep it from spilling into other rural areas.

Sulu provincial Governor Abdusakur Tan said he would allow the Moro attacks to continue, at least for now.

"They're cleaning their ranks. These kidnappers are either their former members or one of their own," Tan said.

was rejected, a senior Indian Home Ministry official said. Home Secretary R.K. Singh told reporters that Mohammed Afzal Guru was executed early Saturday morning at New Delhi's Tihar prison. "It was the law taking its course," Singh said. Guru was given a Muslim burial in the prison compound, Press Trust of India news agency reported. His family in the India's Jammu-Kashmir state has demanded that his body be handed over, but that seems unlikely given the highly sensitive nature of the execution.

12 more were recovered Saturday. Local government administrator Mohammad Saiful Hassan said the search for survivors was called off after Saturday's recovery, but some relatives say their loved ones are still missing.

India hangs man for 2001 attack on Parliament

NEW DELHI (AP)—A Kashmiri man convicted in a 2001 attack on India's Parliament that left 14 people dead was hanged Saturday after a final mercy plea

World

Fear of assassinations haunt Egypt opposition

CAIRO (AP)—Watching the events in Tunisia, where a leading anti-Islamist politician was shot to death this past week, members of Egypt's liberal opposition are fearfully asking: Could it happen here too?

Their fears of a renegade Islamist attack on any of the top opposition leaders have been hiked by religious edicts issued by hardline clerics on TV saying they must be killed. But even before those edicts, activists have been worried by signs they say show that ruling Islamists are starting to target their ranks—disappearances of activists from protests, telephone death threats, warnings from security officials.

Some in the opposition say there's no sure proof of a campaign, just worrisome patterns. But the fears point to how agitated the atmosphere has become in Egypt, with tempers hiked on both sides. The mainly liberal and secular opposition accuses Is-

lamist President Mohammed Morsi of unleashing security forces to crush their protests against him. In turn, many Islamist backers of the president are convinced that the opposition is trying to topple a democratically elected leader by force.

In that environment, an assassination against a top opposition figure like that of Tunisia's Chokri Belaid could be explosive.

Authorities appear to recognize the potential danger. The government increased security at the homes of Egypt's top opposition figures, including Mohamed ElBaradei, a senior figure in the National Salvation Front. On Saturday, there was a startling moment when ElBaradei was getting into vehicle, tightly surrounded by bodyguards, and a middle aged man pushed toward him, shouting hysterically, "You'll wreck Egypt, you'll wreck Egypt" before guards pulled him aside.

And some in the Islamist

camp are worried violence could disrupt their goal of installing an Islamic state in Egypt. Some of the hardest-line Islamist groups postponed pro-Morsi rallies planned for last Friday at the presidential palace, fearing collisions with opposition protesters.

"We are practicing extreme self-restraint," Mohammed al-Zawahri, who is the brother of al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri and is himself a prominent jihadi figure in Egypt, said in an earlier interview with The Associated Press.

Morsi's office, his prime minister and the Muslim Brotherhood—which forms the foundation of Morsi's rule—all condemned the edicts, or fatwas, calling for the killing of opposition figures. In one fatwa, an ultraconservative cleric, Mahmoud Shaaban, accused the Salvation Front's leaders of "setting Egypt on fire to gain power" and said the "verdict against them under God's law is death."

Malian military battles militants outside Gao

GAO, Mali (AP)—Malian soldiers are fighting jihadists in their desert hideouts just outside Gao, the country's defense minister said Saturday, a day after a suicide bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint on the city's outskirts.

Defense Minister Yamousa Camara said that at least two militants were killed during the fighting that took place Friday several miles (kilometers) outside northern Mali's largest town.

"We call on the population of Gao to not give in to panic and above all to cooperate with defense and security forces to drive out the terrorists who are trying to infiltrate among civilians," Camara said by telephone from Bamako, the capital.

However, tensions remained

high on Saturday, and a Malian military spokesman reported earlier in the day that two men had been arrested with explosives while trying to enter the city around 7 a.m.

Military spokesman Modibo Traore later said that the information it had received was false, and that the young men did not have any explosives on them.

While Friday's attack killed only the bomber, it has raised concerns about the future strategy of the militants, who initially appeared to put up little resistance to the French and Malian military advance.

The young man who blew himself up on Friday had been living at a house in Gao that was known as a jihadist hideout. A guard at the home said it had been visited three months

ago by the one-eyed terror leader Moktar Belmoktar, who claimed responsibility for the attack in Algeria on the BP-operated natural gas plant in which more than 37 people died.

Other jihadist leaders from the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa—known as MUJAO—also had stayed in the luxurious two-story home with a verdant courtyard, which the militants took over when they captured Gao last year, the guard said.

Fears of suicide bombing attacks have been high since the discovery of industrial-strength explosives in Gao earlier this week.

The radical fighters seized control of northern Mali in April 2012 after a military coup in distant Bamako.

Syrian troops, rebels clash over Damascus highway

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops backed by warplanes battled rebels for control of a key highway in Damascus Saturday, a day after opposition forces cut the strategic artery as part of what they say are efforts to lay the groundwork for an eventual assault on the heavily defended capital.

Rebels have been on the offensive in Damascus since launching a series of attacks on government positions on Wednesday. They brought their fight to within a mile of the heart of the capital on Friday, seizing army checkpoints and cutting a key highway as they pressed their campaign for the city, the seat of President Bashar Assad's power.

The fighting is the heaviest to

hit Damascus since July, when a first rebel assault managed to capture several neighborhoods before a punishing government counteroffensive. After that rebel foray, the regime quickly reasserted its control over the city, which has spared Damascus much of the violence and destruction that the civil war has wrought on other major urban centers.

Both the rebels and the government consider the fight for Damascus the most likely endgame in a civil war that has already killed more than 60,000 people. The city is heavily fortified and dotted with armed checkpoints, and activists say it is surrounded with three of the most loyal divisions of the

army, including the Republican Guard and the feared 4th Division, commanded by Assad's brother Maher.

The latest Damascus offensive did not appear to be coordinated with rebels on other sides of the capital, and it was unclear whether the opposition fighters would be able to hold their ground.

Activists said the fighting on Saturday focused on a main highway that leads to northern Syria, a key road the regime uses to move troops and supplies. Rebels cut the road on Friday, and still controlled parts of it on Saturday despite government airstrikes and shelling to try to roll them back, said Damascus-based activist Maath al-Shami.



ASIAN BRIEFS

14 bodies recovered in Bangladesh ferry mishap

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Rescuers have recovered a dozen more bodies after a ferry reportedly carrying up to 100 passengers capsized on a river in central Bangladesh, raising the death toll to 14. Dozens of passengers were rescued or swam to shore after the ferry went down Friday on the River Meghna in Munshiganj district, 32 kilometers (20 miles) south of the capital, Dhaka. Rescuers retrieved two bodies Friday, and

Health & Fitness

Southern diet, fried foods, may raise stroke risk

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Deep-fried foods may be causing trouble in the Deep South. People whose diets are heavy on them and sugary drinks like sweet tea and soda were more likely to suffer a stroke, a new study finds.

It's the first big look at diet and strokes, and researchers say it might help explain why blacks in the Southeast—the nation's "stroke belt"—suffer more of them.

Blacks were five times more likely than whites to have the Southern dietary pattern linked with the highest stroke risk. And blacks and whites who live in the South were more likely to eat this way than people in other parts of the country were. Diet might explain as much as two-thirds of the excess stroke risk seen in blacks versus whites, researchers concluded.

"We're talking about fried foods, french fries, hamburgers, processed meats, hot dogs," bacon, ham, liver, gizzards and sugary drinks, said the study's leader, Suzanne Judd of the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

People who ate about six meals a week featuring these sorts of foods had a 41 percent higher stroke risk than people who ate that way about once a month, researchers found.

In contrast, people whose diets were high in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and fish had a 29 percent lower stroke risk.

"It's a very big difference," Judd said. "The message for people in the middle is there's a graded risk"—the likelihood of



This Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013 photo shows fried chicken, french fries, and fried chicken livers with hush puppies at a restaurant in Charlotte, N.C.

suffering a stroke rises in proportion to each Southern meal in a week.

Results were reported Thursday at an American Stroke Association conference in Honolulu.

The federally funded study was launched in 2002 to explore regional variations in stroke risks and reasons for them. More than 20,000 people 45 or older—half of them black—from all 48 mainland states filled out food surveys and were sorted into one of five diet styles:

■ Southern: Fried foods, processed meats (lunchmeat, jerky), red meat, eggs, sweet

drinks and whole milk.

■ Convenience: Mexican and Chinese food, pizza, pasta.

■ Plant-based: Fruits, vegetables, juice, cereal, fish, poultry, yogurt, nuts and whole-grain bread.

■ Sweets: Added fats, breads, chocolate, desserts, sweet breakfast foods.

■ Alcohol: Beer, wine, liquor, green leafy vegetables, salad dressings, nuts and seeds, coffee.

"They're not mutually exclusive"—for example, hamburgers fall into both convenience and Southern diets, Judd said. Each person got a score for each

diet, depending on how many meals leaned that way.

Over more than five years of follow-up, nearly 500 strokes occurred. Researchers saw clear patterns with the Southern and

plant-based diets; the other three didn't seem to affect stroke risk.

There were 138 strokes among the 4,977 who ate the most Southern food, compared to 109 strokes among the 5,156

people eating the least of it.

There were 122 strokes among the 5,076 who ate the most plant-based meals, compared to 135 strokes among the 5,056 people who seldom ate that way.

New whooping cough strain in US raises questions

NEW YORK (AP)—Researchers have discovered the first U.S. cases of whooping cough caused by a germ that may be resistant to the vaccine.

Health officials are looking into whether cases like the dozen found in Philadelphia might be one reason the nation just had its worst year for whooping cough in six decades. The new bug was previously reported in Japan, France and Finland.

"It's quite intriguing. It's the first time we've seen this here," said Dr. Tom Clark of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The U.S. cases are detailed in a brief report from the CDC and other researchers in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Whooping cough is a highly contagious disease that can strike people of any age but is most dangerous to children. It was

once common, but cases in the U.S. dropped after a vaccine was introduced in the 1940s.

An increase in illnesses in recent years has been partially blamed on a version of the vaccine used since the 1990s, which doesn't last as long. Last year, the CDC received reports of 41,880 cases, according to a preliminary count. That included 18 deaths.

The new study suggests that the new whooping cough strain may be why more people have been getting sick. Experts don't think it's more deadly, but the shots may not work as well against it.

In a small, soon-to-be published study, French researchers found the vaccine seemed to lower the risk of severe disease from the new strain in infants. But it didn't prevent illness completely, said Nicole Guiso of the Pasteur Institute, one of the researchers.

The new germ was first identified in France, where more extensive testing is routinely done for whooping cough. The strain now accounts for 14 percent of cases there, Guiso said.

In the United States, doctors usually rely on a rapid test to help make a diagnosis. The extra lab work isn't done often enough to give health officials a good idea how common the new type is here, experts said.

"We definitely need some more information about this before we can draw any conclusions," the CDC's Clark said.

The U.S. cases were found in the past two years in patients at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. One of the study's researchers works for a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, which makes a version of the old whooping cough vaccine that is sold in other countries.

Study: Many stroke survivors think about suicide

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

One in 12 stroke survivors thought about suicide or that they would be better off dead, a troubling federal survey reveals. That's more than those with other health problems such as heart attacks or cancer, and it suggests that depression after stroke is more serious than many had realized.

"It was surprising" and shows a need for more treatment, said the study's leader, Dr. Amytis Towfighi of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. "When patients have their depression treated they're more motivated to take their medication, do therapy and live a full life."

The study was discussed Thursday at an American Stroke Association conference in Honolulu.

More than 6 million Americans have had a stroke; about 800,000 occur each year in the U.S. Studies suggest that up to a third of stroke survivors develop depression, but few have looked

ON THE NET
Stroke conference: <http://www.strokeassociation.org>

at suicidal thoughts—one sign of how serious it is.

"It's not necessarily active suicidal thoughts with a plan, but perhaps wishing you hadn't survived the event," Towfighi explained.

She used the National Health and Nutrition Surveys, a government project that gives checkups and questionnaires to a representative sample of adults. More than 17,000 people were surveyed from 2005 through 2010.

They included 678 who had suffered a stroke; 758 who had had a heart attack; 1,242 with cancer, and 1,991 with diabetes. Researchers don't know how long ago these problems occurred or if people were still being treated for them.

They were asked a question that many studies use to gauge suicidal thinking: "Over the last two weeks, how often have you

been bothered by thoughts that you would be better off dead, or of hurting yourself?"

About 8 percent of stroke survivors reported such thoughts, compared to 6 percent of heart attack survivors, 5 percent of those with diabetes and 4 percent with cancer.

Suicidal thoughts were more likely in people who scored high on depression tests, were younger, overweight, less educated, poor, female or unmarried.

Depression may develop partly because strokes damage the very thing that controls mood—the brain, said a neurologist with no role in the study, Dr. Brian Silver of Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital.

"It's not necessarily the reaction to the disease ... it's also the disease itself that is causing the depression," by releasing harmful chemicals that can trigger it, he said.

Suicidal thinking is a well-known problem, but this study "puts a number on it" and shows the need to watch for and treat it, Silver said.

Personal Trainer

Fast results from 'super-slow'

A simple training technique — doing exercises very slowly — is generally safe and has helped many people improve their strength quickly.

Basic 'protocol'

Use either free weights or a resistance machine



1 Slowly contract muscles for 10 seconds



2 Pause when muscles are fully contracted



3 Gradually release contraction for 5 seconds



4 Immediately repeat movement



5 Keep going until muscles "fail" and can't do movement again



6 Rest briefly, then do next exercise



Full set of exercises

Eight to 10 different exercises can bring all the major muscle groups to exhaustion

Usually takes only 10 or 15 min.

Three times a week is a commonly recommended schedule

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Graphic:
Helen Lee
McComas,
Paul Trap

Life & Style

Grammys pay tribute to Shankar, King, Temptations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ravi Shankar passed away in December before he could attend The Recording Academy's Special Merit Awards celebration where he was to receive a lifetime achievement award. But the 91-year-old sitar master, Indian music promoter and friend to The Beatles got the call a few days before he passed away, and that meant everything to his family.

"I was very excited to hear about the lifetime achievement award a week before my dad passed away, one day before he went into surgery," Shankar's

daughter, Norah Jones, said in an email to the Associated Press a few hours before the ceremony. "He knew about it and was very happy, and also that he and my sister, Anoushka, were both nominated in the same category for a Grammy (this year) was a special thing as well. We all miss him and are very proud of him. I will forever be discovering and re-discovering his music from all walks of his long and amazing life."

Jones and Anoushka Shankar's acceptance of their father's award Saturday afternoon

at the Wilshire Ebert Theatre in Los Angeles was one of many memorable moments in the ceremony honoring performers and non-performers alike.

The crowd made a happy birthday video for Carole King, saluted husband-and-wife songwriters Marilyn and Alan Bergman on their 55th anniversary, and swooned as Charlie Haden paid tribute to his wife and family.

Shankar, singer-songwriter King and jazz bassist Haden were honored with lifetime achievement awards along with classical pianist Glenn Gould,

who made his final public performance in the same theatre, blues guitarist Lightnin' Hopkins, The Temptations and pop singer Patti Page, who like Shankar passed away in the last two months.

Special merit awards also were handed out to non-performers. Chess Records founders Philip and Leonard Chess, husband-and-wife songwriters Marilyn and Alan Bergman, and former Capitol Records executive Alan Livingston won the Trustees Award given to non-performers. And MIDI develop-

ers Ikutaro Kakehashi and Dave Smith and ribbon microphone manufacturer Royer Labs won technical Grammys.

Haden noted the importance of his family in his acceptance speech.

"I thank my brother Jim for letting me listen to his jazz records," Haden said. "I heard Charlie Parker and that changed my life forever."

For King, it was James Taylor who sent her down a new path. She noted in her video message he forced her to get up and sing one of her own songs in concert

when she really didn't see herself as a performer: "I guess he was right."

The Bergmans, who wrote "The Way We Were," turned in a romantic acceptance speech, adding another special moment to a partnership that produced some of our most well-known songs.

"I just want to say this in public: I'm married to the most remarkable woman in the world," Alan Bergman said.

"Oh, cut it out," Marilyn Bergman responded.

Mary J. Blige honored by Vibe at pre-Grammy party

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Babyface called her an icon; Diddy said she was like a sister; and Anita Baker credited her for helping secure her latest Grammy nomination.

There was no shortage of superlatives bestowed on Mary J. Blige on Friday night as Vibe magazine celebrated the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul's career, which has now spanned for more than two decades.

"She's a musical soulmate, she's my sister, she's one of my best friends in the world," said Diddy, who has worked with Blige since the beginning of her career. "Mary is our queen. ... There is no one to come after her."

Blige was feted during Vibe's first Impact Awards, which coincided with the magazine's 20th anniversary. The event included guests like MC Lyte, Jermaine Dupri and Queen Latifah. Blige appeared to wipe away tears at moments as she was lauded by one guest after another.

Babyface, who wrote one of Blige's biggest hits, "Not Gon' Cry," recalled being a little intimidated by the idea of working with Blige, whom he saw as a tough New Yorker.

"Mary walked in and she was so sweet ... and so respectful and totally melted me right there," he said.

Diddy recalled how Blige worked with him after he got fired from one of his first high-profile jobs in the industry and when no else one would, and also said she was one of his best friends.

One of the more emotional tributes came from Baker, who was a childhood idol of Blige's. Baker thanked Blige for seeking her out for collaborations and helping a new generation discover her music.

"That kind of generosity is non-existent in our business," said Baker, who is nominated for a Grammy at Sunday's awards. "This Grammy nomination that I have is in great part because you spoke my name into the 21st century."



This Sept. 6, 2012 file photo shows singer Mary J. Blige performing during the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. AP

Latifah noted the personal transformation of Blige, who overcame substance abuse and other obstacles to become one of music's leading role models. "For me when I look back

at you and the journey you've taken, I find you to be extremely inspirational and aspirational, especially to young women," Latifah said.

When Blige got up to accept her honor, she thanked everyone for embracing her throughout her career, even during her very public missteps. She also thanked people for accepting her imperfections. She recounted a story about being sent to charm school early in her career by handlers who thought she needed to smooth over her rough edges. But Blige was not a good student.

"I just walked out and I never went back," Blige said. "I'm glad I didn't go back because I don't think that I would have had an impact on anyone's life had I lived someone else's life."

Blige recently starred as Betty Shabazz, the widow of Malcolm X, in the Lifetime movie "Betty & Coretta" co-starring Angela Bassett.

Giant bill for fixing Rowan Atkinson's McLaren

LONDON (AP)—Everyone who's had a fender bender knows the cost of repairs is going up. But few cars can be as costly to fix as "Mr. Bean" actor Rowan Atkinson's rare McLaren F1.

It took more than a year—and more than 900,000 pounds (\$1.4 million)—to get his supercar up and running after a 2011 crash that left Atkinson with a badly damaged shoulder.

The high-performance car makes extensive use of carbon fiber and needed specialist care—it took weeks just to get a proper insurance estimate.

Ben Stagg, specialty insurer with RK Harrison, said the quality components used to make an F1 are one reason the repair costs were so high.

"All modern supercars are predominantly carbon fiber—most Lamborghinis, most Ferraris—and the smallest ding in carbon fiber is a big repair job," he said. "And part of the engine bay is gold, that's the best heat conductor. It's the materials



Photo dated Nov. 15 1998 of comedian Rowan Atkinson at the wheel of his McLaren F1 sports car. AP

they used compared to everyday cars that make it so expensive."

He said many owners baby their expensive cars, driving them only a few times a year in perfect weather conditions,

but Atkinson actually drives his McLaren extensively.

The unusual repair job, thought to involve one of the largest car insurance settlements in British history, is extensively docu-

mented in Classic & Sports Car magazine, with a picture of the burgundy McLaren on the cover.

Atkinson, last seen by many playing piano as Mr. Bean during the opening ceremony of the London Olympics, told the magazine he believes supercars should be used, not sequestered in garages.

"It depresses me when great cars are hidden away," he said. "It's a crime not to use it."

Magazine editor Alastair Clements said Atkinson should be applauded.

"He let us do the story because he wanted other enthusiasts to know that he loves it, that he isn't just some celebrity with an expensive car, that he's owned it for 15 years and loved it for 15 years," he said. "He's put it back exactly as it was. He's a bit of a hero. It's much more than the value."

Of course, the value is there—Stagg said the last used McLaren F1 sold on the open market went for about 3.5 million pounds.

Harry Potter star Grint changes pace in new film

BERLIN (AP)—Harry Potter star Rupert Grint says he enjoyed a change of scene from the young wizard's adventures when he starred alongside Shia LaBeouf in "The Necessary Death of Charlie Countryman," one of the competitors at this year's Berlin film festival.

Grint plays a drug-addled traveler in the movie, set in Bucharest, which screened at the festival Saturday. One of 19 competing for the event's Golden Bear award, it centers on an improbable romance between an American traveler played by LaBeouf and a troubled Romanian musician, played by Evan Rachel Wood.

Grint played Harry's faithful friend Ron in the Potter films.

He told reporters: "After playing the same character for 11 years, it's nice to do something completely different." He added: "The character was someone who's completely the opposite of Ron."

Vegas casino seeking Britney Spears residency

LAS VEGAS (AP)—After weeks of speculation, Caesars Entertainment is confirming that it's trying to lure Britney Spears to Las Vegas for a recurring gig at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino.

Spokeswoman Emily Wofford said Friday the company is in negotiations to install the pop princess on the Las Vegas Strip.

The 31-year-old "Scream & Shout" singer stoked rumors last week by responding with a "Viva Las Vegas" hashtag to a post from her dog's Twitter account asking if puppies can gamble in Sin City.

Spears left her position on the television singing contest "The X Factor" in January, telling fans she wanted to refocus on her music.

Caesars Entertainment currently is promoting residencies by singers Cee Lo Green at Planet Hollywood and Shania Twain at Caesars Palace.



DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

JUAN BORJA TUDELA

BORN: MAY 17, 1935 • DIED: FEBRUARY 02, 2013

PREDECEASED BY:

PARENTS:

†JESUS SABLÁN TUDELA
†ANUNCIA BORJA TUDELA

PARENTS IN LAW:

†ROSA LIZAMA MASGA-TAISACAN
†GABRIEL MANGLONA MASGA
†JOSE ATALIG TAISACAN

PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS:

†FRANCISCO RAMIREZ TUDELA
†ANA SABLÁN TUDELA

PATERNAL IN-LAW GRANDPARENTS:

†ANTONIA MANGLONA MASGA
†VICENTE HOCOG MASGA

MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS:

†MANUEL MENDIOLA BORJA
†IGNACIA DIAZ BORJA

MATERNAL IN-LAW GRANDPARENTS:

†EMILIA CRISOSTOMO LIZAMA
†JUAN PALOMO LIZAMA

HIS MEMORIES WILL FOREVER LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HIS:

WIFE: ANTONIA MASGA TUDELA

CHILDREN, SONS/DAUGHTERS IN-LAW, GRAND CHILDREN, AND GREAT GRAND CHILDREN:

PIDING T. AND MANUEL C. TENORIO (DEROL JASON M. AND SANDRA H. TUDELA (JASON PETER IGLECIAS), JONATHAN MICHAEL, JEMALYN MICHELLE, ANTONETTE T. AND LUCAS LANIYO (DAUGHTER), +MANUEL JR. Q. TENORIO)

IGNACIA (ACHA) T. AND ANTONIO S. DEMAPAN (ANTHONY JOHN T. DEMAPAN AND LANI BENAVENTE (CIANA LEI), BRANDON T. DEMAPAN AND VICKY TUDELA (AYVAH VICTORIA, CJ, TERRANCE), AND DAISYLYNN)

ROSA (CHAI) M. TUDELA AND JOHNNY S. ALDAN (BILLY JOE, MAYLEEN ROSE, JOHNNY, RICHARD JOSEPH, JULIE AND TON ATALIG (JOHNSON, PATSY, CJ, JOCELYN, CELINA, AND MORRIS), MASON AND JORDIE ALDAN (PILAR, MAX, REKIHNA, AND MASON JR.)

CECILIA T. AND JAMES S. LABAUSA (JOHN JAMES, ANTONETTE MARIE ROSE, AND RUBY CORNELIA)

JANE FRANCES M. TUDELA

ELEANOR ANTONIA T. AND JOSE DLC. TENORIO (VIRON JOEL)

ELIZABETH M. TUDELA

JOHN GABRIEL JR. M. TUDELA

JESUS (JESSE) VINCENT M. AND JOCELYN M. TUDELA (ANNABELLA JELYN)

BROTHERS, SISTERS, AND BROTHERS/SISTERS IN-LAW:

†FRANCISCO B. AND †ANA DLG. TUDELA AND CHILDREN

†JULIANA T. AND †JOSE Q. LIZAMA AND CHILDREN

†MAGDALENA T. AND †VICENTE C. SALAS AND CHILDREN

†RAIMUNDA T. AND †FRANCISCO C. PALACIOS AND CHILDREN

†RUFINA T. AND †VIC QUERIBIN AND CHILDREN

†SABINA T. AND †JOHN C. PANGELINAN AND CHILDREN

SR. CECILIA B. TUDELA, MMB

†RUFINO B. AND CONSOLACION F. TUDELA AND CHILDREN

REARED BROTHER: LEO B. AND LEIMOMI M. TUDELA AND CHILDREN

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN-LAW:

†JUAN L. MASGA

†VICENTA L. MASGA

†GABRIEL L. MASGA

ANTONIO L. AND CONNIE N. TAISACAN AND CHILDREN

EMILIA T. AND JOSE S. RIOS AND CHILDREN

PUDENCIANA T. AND JOAQUIN S. QUITUGUA AND CHILDREN

RICARDO L. AND CYNTHIA C. TAISACAN AND CHILDREN

†VICTOR L. TAISACAN

DAILY MASS IS OFFERED AT 6:00P.M., AT SAN VICENTE CHURCH FOLLOWED BY THE HOLY ROSARY.

ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013, HIS REMAINS WILL BE ESCORTED AT 7:20 A.M. FROM BORJA FUNERAL HOME TO MULTI PURPOSE CENTER FOR MUNICIPAL MEMORIAL SERVICE FROM 7:30 A.M. TO 8:30 A.M.

HIS BODY WILL BE AT THE CHALAN KANOA CATHEDRAL CHURCH AT 9:00 A.M. FOR VIEWING AND LAST RESPECTS. MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 11:00 A.M. AND WILL BE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY INTERMENT SERVICE AT CHALAN KANOA CEMETARY.

YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

SI YU'US MA'ASE-THANK YOU
FROM HIS WIFE ANTONIA MASGA TUDELA AND CHILDREN



Chris Brown crashes car while evading paparazzi

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Police in Beverly Hills say Chris Brown escaped injury after crashing his Porsche into a wall while being chased by pa-

parazzi.

Lt. Lincoln Hoshino said the collision occurred around noon Saturday. Brown told police that he lost control of his black

Porsche during the chase.

Hoshino said police will investigate the incident. He said he didn't know whether the paparazzi in the pursuing vehicles

have been identified.

A call to Brown's lawyer was not immediately returned.

The crash came a day before the Grammy Awards, where Brown is up for best urban contemporary album.

Elton John shares Grammy stage with young rockers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elton John still fills stadiums worldwide on his own, but he'll share the spotlight with a dozen other musicians at Sunday's Grammy Awards.

The 65-year-old entertainer rehearsed Saturday at Staples Center alongside young Grammy nominees Mumford & Sons, Zac Brown, Ed Sheeran and Brittany Howard of Alabama Shakes.

John prepared for two performances: a rousing rendition of the Band's "The Weight" that also featured T. Bone Burnett and Mavis Staples, and a duet of Sheeran's single "The A Team."

"The fun of it for me is playing with other people," said John, wearing a navy Adidas tracksuit and his trademark red shades.

He also loves the Band's classic American sound.

"You've got a lot of British people up there playing American music, because that's what we love," he said of the Levon Helm tribute, which John dedicated to "the teachers and students of Sandy Hook Elementary School, whose songs ended too soon."

The Grammy Awards honor all kinds of music, but John said, "It should be more of a potpourri than it is."

"It's a bit ageist," he added. "You're lucky it's ageist!" joked Grammy Awards executive producer Ken Ehrlich.

"T. Bone and I are the oldest people to play the Grammys," John said. "And we're only 30."

Snoop Dogg blazes one during BMI songwriting panel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Music fans who turned out to BMI's annual pre-Grammy Awards "How I Wrote That Song" discussion got a little more than they expected thanks to Snoop Dogg—a contact high.

The rapper smoked marijuana during Saturday's panel discussion, lighting up a large, Kush-filled blunt on stage at The Roxy. He briefly passed it off to B.o.B before methodically reducing it to



Dogg

ash over a 15-minute period. The panel also included Busta Rhymes and songwriters Luke Laird and Evan Bogart, all of whom abstained—at least on stage.

Fittingly, the conversation eventually turned to Snoop's groundbreaking work on "The Chronic."

Laird recalled growing up at the end of a dirt road 10 miles outside Conneaut Lake, a small town of 700 in rural Pennsylvania. Yet Snoop's

work with Dr. Dre still infiltrated his world and that of all the other country kids around him.

"Let me just say, the album everyone was listening to was 'The Chronic,'" Laird said, noting how surreal it was to be sitting on stage with Snoop.

With acoustic guitar in hand, he played a bit of his Blake Shelton hit "Hillbilly Bone" in its original form: a rap song. The Nashville-based songwriter had everyone bobbing their heads to the beat.

"Now I feel like more than ever you see these influences crossing genres," Laird said.

Hathaway eyes more musicals after 'Les Miserables'

BERLIN (AP)—Anne Hathaway says she'd like to do more musicals after the Oscar-nominated "Les Miserables"—but don't expect her to launch into a singing career.

Director Tom Hooper on Saturday presented his movie, an adaptation of a Broadway mu-

sical based on Victor Hugo's novel, at the Berlin film festival.

Hathaway's role as an outcast mother reduced to prostitution has won her an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress.

She told reporters she hopes to do more musicals and would like more to be made—"I'm a

big fan of them, so that would make me very happy both as an actress and as an audience member."

But Hathaway says the experience hasn't made her more comfortable singing in public. She says: "I have no plans for recording an album."

MAN OF THE YEAR

Golden Globe-winning actor Kiefer Sutherland reacts as he is honored as the Hasty Pudding Man of the Year by Harvard's Hasty Pudding Theatricals at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., Friday, Feb. 8, 2013. The roast for the actor took place despite a massive snowstorm hitting the Boston area. The Friday evening event, including presentation of the traditional pudding pot, was moved to the Charles Hotel in Cambridge. The 46-year-old Sutherland has been in dozens of films. He's perhaps best known for his role as Jack Bauer in the television series "24," for which he won Golden Globe and Primetime Emmy awards. He is currently starring in the television show "Touch." Last year's Man of the Year was Jason Segel. The 2013 Woman of the Year, Marion Cotillard, was honored last week. AP



SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Beyonce, Jay-Z, Rihanna hang at Roc Nation brunch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jay-Z and Beyonce sat tightly with Solange. Kelly Rowland embraced Beyonce with a huge hug. And Rihanna spilled some of her drink laughing with Rowland. Music's top stars attended the annual pre-Grammy Roc Nation and Nokia brunch Saturday at the Soho House. Grammy nominee Miguel, Timbaland, Jill Scott and Kylie Minogue also attended the exclusive event. Jay-Z is one of six acts nominated for six awards at Sunday's Grammys. Rihanna is up for three trophies, and Beyonce is nominated for one award. The crowd Saturday was full of members of music industry, who mingled with per-

formers like The-Dream, Jordin Sparks, Melanie Fiona, Diane Warren, Christina Milian, MC Lyte and Santigold.

Grammy nominee Frank Ocean performs at Levi event

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Frank Ocean is nominated for six awards and will perform at Sunday's Grammys, and he warmed up at an event for a few hundred people Friday night. The R&B singer-songwriter performed a 30-minute set at the Ace Museum in Los Angeles. He was calm onstage, singing songs like "Pyramid," "Crack Rock," "Sierra Leone" and "Thinkin Bout You," which is nominated for record of the year at the Grammys. The 25-year-old wore his signature

headband while purple lights shined in the background. He bent on his knees as his guitarist jammed on one song. Ocean is part of the six top acts nominated for six awards at the Grammy Awards. His debut studio album, "channel ORANGE," is nominated for album of the year. He's also up for best new artist. Ocean performed at an event for Levi celebrating the denim brand's 140 year anniversary of its 501 jeans. He'll compete with acts like fun. and The Black Keys in major categories at the Grammys, to air live from the Staples Center on CBS.

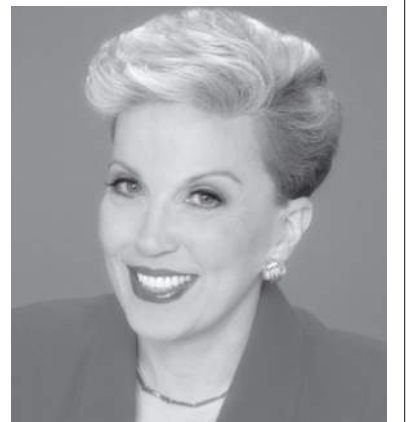
Largest-ever Mardi Gras float has a little hiccup

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—In a city known for overindul-

gence, maybe the largest-ever Mardi Gras float was a little too much. The 330-foot long super float built by the Krewe of Endymion had to be separated in half to make a turn during its parade Saturday. Shelton Carr, who was working security at the Superdome, says the float was separated and then re-attached so it could continue to roll. The turn was only a minor hiccup. The parade finished its route ahead of schedule. The float ended its journey at the Superdome, where thousands of revelers were decked out in black tie attire. It was the first major event at the venue since the Super Bowl power blackout. The multimillion-dollar float holds more than 200 riders. The parade's celebrity grand marshal was Kelly Clarkson.

Be a sweetheart and reach out to someone who's lonely

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Valentine's Day is approaching, and I wanted to write concerning those of us who are single by choice, by circumstance, because of the death of a spouse or divorce.

This holiday was set aside to celebrate love and lovers, but it can be a lonely time for people who find themselves without a significant other. Valentine's Day is so commercialized that one is bombarded by ads for gifts, candy, etc., from every angle, which only enforces one's aloneness. The message is subtly sent—but received loud and clear—that an individual without a partner is worthless.

I would like to urge your readers this year to include those who are alone through divorce or widowhood in their celebration of this day. Make it a day on which they too can feel special, loved, and a part of things rather than isolated, forgotten and alone.

And don't stop there. All holidays can be lonely for those who have lost loved ones. Include these people in your holiday plans. You will be blessed by sharing, and they will be uplifted to know someone cares.

SOLO IN TEXAS

DEAR SOLO: Thank you for your letter. Readers, if you're feeling down because you don't have a special valentine, the surest cure for the blues is to do something for someone else. Call someone who's alone to say, "I'm thinking about you."

If you know someone who's in a nursing home, take some flowers. Put your discarded items in a box and call your favorite charity. Donate some blood. Listen to your teenager. Tell your parents you think they're great. Forgive an enemy. Send a donation to a food program that benefits the needy.

And if you love someone, tell him or her NOW; please don't wait until next Valentine's Day to be a sweetheart again.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have had an embarrassing problem ever since grammar school. I bite my nails and cuticles until they bleed. If the pain is severe, or I see a piece of cuticle hanging, I stop until it heals. But then I start up again. How can quit this ugly habit?

MANIC IN GRANDVIEW, MO.

DEAR MANIC: You have a problem that I'm told is shared by one in 12 adults. There is more than one solution for it, and the common denominator in all of them is MOTIVATION. Some helpful suggestions submitted by readers in years past:

(1) "What helped me to finally stop at age 45 was that I sat down and tried to figure out why I kept biting my nails. I finally realized it was because I couldn't stand the feel of a rough nail catching on the fabric of my clothing.

"Now I keep emery boards, from coarse to fine, beside my favorite chair, in my purse, in my glove compartment and by my bed. If I feel a snag, I immediately smooth the offending nail. It has eliminated my need to bite."

(2) "My high school teacher included some interesting lessons in personal hygiene in his biology class. One day, he asked us to scrape under our fingernails and look at what we removed under a microscope. Seeing face to face what had collected under there was enough to stop me from biting my nails. I haven't chewed them in nearly 30 years."

(3) "What stopped me was a job I landed as a teenager. I became an usher at a movie theater. My job required wearing a uniform, including white gloves. Not long after I landed the job, I noticed I had nice nails. The gloves were what did it."

(4) "Finally, when I was in my 30s, I asked my doctor to suggest a cure. He talked to me about obsessive-compulsive disorder and prescribed a low dose of a very safe drug used by people with O.C.D. In three weeks my nail-biting stopped for good."

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

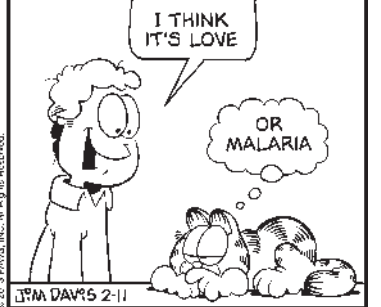
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

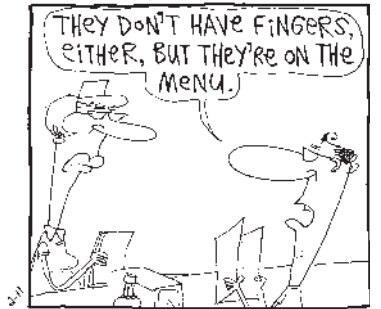
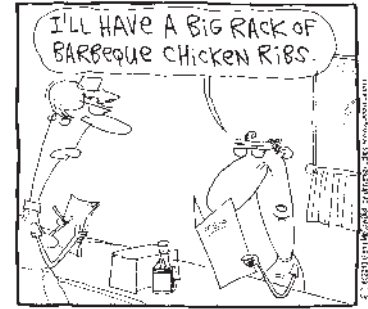
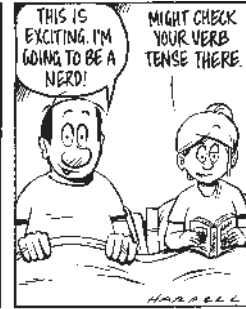
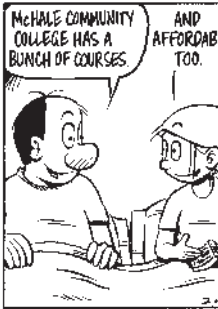
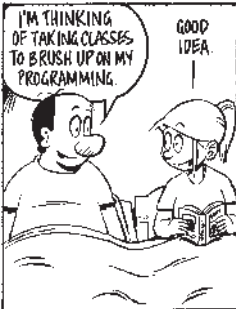


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — up (invigorates)

5 Alphabet start

8 "Pygmalion" writer

12 Spine component

14 Unadulterated

15 Language of Zagreb

16 Rod's partner

17 Cudgel

18 Wedding-related

20 Pirate flag symbol

23 Tempo

24 Grow weary

25 AT&T competitor

28 Coatrack piece

29 Oyster's gift

30 Mediterranean, for one

32 Porch

34 Blueprint

DOWN

35 "Sad to say ..."

36 Combination of tones

37 Desert fox

40 — carte

41 Out of control

42 Exact

47 Streamlet

48 Taboo

49 A Great Lake

50 Beer cousin

51 Start a garden

3 Paid athlete

4 Horse's hangout

5 Something what

6 Lingerie item

7 Capital of Australia

8 Perfume application

9 Colored

10 Neighborhood

11 Healthy

13 And others (Lat.)

19 Bar

20 Fuel

21 Capital of Ukraine

22 Incite

23 Rosary components

25 Large blood vessel

26 Capital of Norway

27 Approach

29 Wan

31 Additionally

33 Irritate

34 Light-house of Alexandria

36 Organization

37 Passenger's payment

38 Eastern potentate

39 — me tangere

40 Farm measure

43 Animation frame

44 Consumed

45 Golf gadget

46 Conclusion

Solution time: 27 mins.

PAW	FL	EA	SASS
AGO	READ	OBOE	
SERVANTS	FUME		
TANS	OTTER		
ETHIC	HAVE		
RUIN	SERENITY		
ONE	LIFER	GEE	
SERPENTS	GNAW		
ICKY	FLOSS		
ROUGH	BIER		
ERNE	SERGEANT		
VETO	UTAH	NEW	
SOON	PANT	TOO	

Friday's answer 2-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Lautner, 21; Damian Lewis, 42; Jennifer Aniston, 44; Sheryl Crow, 51

Happy Birthday: Passionately embrace whatever you need to do and you will find solutions. Believe in your capabilities rather than trusting in what someone else professes to be able to do. Don't limit your possibilities when incorporating the wisdom you have gained from the restrictions you've encountered. Your numbers are 2, 8, 11, 28, 34, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Cutting corners will not turn out well. Pay attention to detail and go the extra mile. It's better to be considered an overachiever, especially if you want to make an impression on someone who influences your income. Love is on the rise. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you want something, ask for it. Favors will be granted and can make your life easier. New acquaintances will lead to interesting groups and pastimes that will allow you to pick up new skills or explore diverse ways of using your talents. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Taking on the impossible will make you look back. You may want to follow a creative path, but making sure it is also practical will slow you down. Keep whatever you do simple. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make an impression. Speak up, call the shots and take over. A partnership will form with someone with as much to offer as you. A change in the

way you do things must not be made on a whim. Concentrate on using your attributes. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Added responsibilities can be expected if you are in either a business or personal partnership. Keep tabs on expenditures and contracts that are coming up for renewal. You can lower your overhead if you are diligent in your dealings. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Conflicts are best dealt with quickly. Size up your situation and make your move before someone takes advantage of you. Talks must be kept cordial or nothing will be resolved. Back away from anyone showing a temper instead of reason. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Interact with people from different backgrounds or network with individuals you find motivating or inspiring. Love is on the rise and opportunities will come into play if you partner with someone aspiring to reach similar goals. A partnership will change your life. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make plans to improve your home and personal relationships. You don't have to spend to win someone's attention. Focus on spending less and stabilizing your financial future. Communication will help you find peace through shared solutions. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Back away from anyone asking for the impossible. Trust issues are apparent, and listening carefully to what's being said will help you bypass getting involved in a fiasco. Make changes at home that will add to your comfort and happiness. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Revisit past problems and experiences and you will know how to deal with someone who is being impulsive or erratic. Too much of anything will lead to trouble. Gauge your time and your intake when it comes to socializing or accommodating others. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Set strict rules and focus on what you want to accomplish. Don't let personal problems dictate what you can and cannot do. It's important that your motives are right and that you are honest about what you want to pursue. Opportunity knocks. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Set goals that will improve your financial position. There is money to be made if you follow your intuition and your creative vision. Help will be offered if you lay out your strategy for someone with a good eye, wisdom and experience to view. ***

Birthday Baby: You like to please. You desire recognition. You embrace unfamiliar territory. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4			6		3					
	3				5	6				
			8			5	9			
6		3		8				7	4	
					2	1	7			
9	1			4				2		8
		9	8			2				
			5	9					1	
				4	1					5

Difficulty Level ★

2/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	3	6	1	9	7	4	2
2	6	1	4	7	3	9	5	8
7	9	4	2	8	5	3	6	1
8	3	2	1	4	6	5	9	7
4	5	7	3	9	8	2	1	6
9	1	6	7	5	2	4	8	3
1	4	8	9	3	7	6	2	5
6	7	9	5	2	1	8	3	4
3	2	5	8	6	4	1	7	9

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MASKS OF THE WORLD

Solution: 4 letters

E	M	A	L	F	N	S	R	O	T	S	E	C	N	A
S	P	A	C	A	I	Y	T	I	E	D	R	L	Q	C
S	E	O	I	K	K	R	E	T	A	E	H	T	O	I
F	D	D	R	L	P	S	E	F	A	R	E	R	N	R
E	N	A	I	U	G	A	E	T	E	C	E	A	E	F
I	D	S	E	S	E	N	I	H	C	A	L	D	A	A
L	C	O	B	B	S	V	O	N	S	S	S	I	I	N
E	A	U	O	P	E	H	G	L	T	A	S	T	O	H
B	R	P	I	H	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	I	S	C
N	N	R	E	B	E	S	G	L	N	U	G	O	E	U
Y	I	F	M	E	H	L	E	O	M	I	T	N	B	S
T	V	A	K	A	A	E	D	D	L	E	G	I	I	T
E	A	C	D	R	G	N	S	E	N	D	T	H	R	O
S	L	E	E	D	I	I	R	O	M	A	N	S	T	M
L	A	E	V	E	R	A	C	S	N	M	E	L	O	S

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Africa, Ancestors, Andes, Aztec, Beads, Beard, Beliefs, Burn, Caps, Carnival, Chinese, Coil, Creative, Customs, Dark, Deity, Europe, Face, Feasts, Fire, Flame, Glare, Gold, Greek, Helmet, Hide, Hood, Indian, Indonesia, Lashes, Leadership, Long, Magic, Nights, Nose, Paint, Religion, Reveal, Ritual, Role, Romans, Sacred, Scare, Shade, Sides, Silk, Solemn, Spirit, Theater, Tradition, Tribes, Zone
Last Saturday's Answer: Extra Old
Extra Old means to be very old, and it's a good thing to be old. The word "extra" is a prefix that means "beyond" or "in addition to." The word "old" is a suffix that means "ancient" or "long ago." So, "extra old" means "beyond ancient" or "in addition to long ago." It's a good thing to be old, because you can enjoy all the wisdom and experience that comes with age.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

AUTO MARINE INCORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
(2) Mechanic
(2) Customer Representative
(1) Maintenance Worker
(1) Automotive Specialty Technician
Call 323-2916 and look for Adonis Santos

Hong Ye Trading Company LTD.
P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Estimator for Construction
Minimum of 5yrs experience. High School graduate. Salary \$5.55/hr. If interested, call 235-8748.

Sheu's Brothers Holding Co. LTD
P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950
Vacancy Announcement for US workers'
1-Inventory Clerk
3 yrs experience. Flexible working hours. Japanese/Chinese speaking a plus. Salary \$5.55/hr. Call 235-6128.

South Pacific Lumber Co.
➤ **Warehouse Space & Equipment Rental/Sales**
➤ **Metal Roofing Panels for Sale**
Located in Lower Base (Industrial Area) For inquiries, please call 989-8809

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Assistant Project Manager
• 2-3 years work experience – construction
• Engineering graduate

Please send resume to:
Triple "L" Construction, Inc.
Fax no. 234-5104

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

APARTMENT FOR RENT
1 B/R Apartment \$150/month
2 B/R Apartment \$200/month
2 Storey House w/ 1.5 bath & 2 bedrooms \$350/month
Available now Chinatown area
Call 233-2644 anytime

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
BARTENDER
starting with minimum wage
■ experienced as bartender
■ with pleasing personality and good communication skills
■ works only Fridays & Saturdays
■ must be authorized to work.

Please fill-up an application and attached Police Clearance to:
Samuhan International, Inc.
dba GIG Discotheque
Tel: 670-234-5050


NUTESE
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
OPEN DATE: February 1, 2013
CLOSING DATE: February 15, 2013
PROGRAM MANAGER

NURTURING TRANSFORMATIVE & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES or NUTESE is hiring a part-time Program Manager who will provide all the necessary program management duties including the training of volunteer advocates as well as direct services to victims of sexual assault and other assigned tasks.

Interested applicants can request a complete job description and application form at keiko.odashiro@gmail.com

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. (Mobil) is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation - the world's largest publicly traded integrated petroleum and natural gas company which operates facilities and markets products globally and explores for oil and natural gas on six continents. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

Terminal Operator, Saipan and Tinian

Description:
Perform day to day activities to safely operate a petroleum distribution facility. Maintaining safety, health, environmental and security standards within local and federal regulations and Mobil policies, procedures and guidelines while performing operations of marine tanker receiving, bunkering, tank truck loading, pipeline transfer, product quality testing, handling and storage of bulk and packaged petroleum products delivering premier product quality and customer service.

Location:

- Saipan Terminal, Puerto Rico, NM
- Tinian Bulk Plant, San Jose, NM

Primary Job Functions:

- Execute and comply with Mobil's operational procedures and systems, policies, guidelines, using terminal manuals & procedures, loss prevention tools, corporate and industry standards.
- Conduct routine facility inspections. Maintain housekeeping, conduct maintenance and repairs to ensure safe operating conditions. Administratively record and report conditions using Mobil's processes and systems, basic computer skills using programs such as words & excel spreadsheets.
- Perform safe marine terminal operations: shore to ship and ship to shore transfers of bulk petroleum products; tank truck loading, pipeline transfers and product quality testing.
- Adhere to programs that require a dynamic and proactive approach to ensure the safety, health, environment and security of its employees, customers and the public.
- Administratively prepare & submit various regulatory agency & corporate reports, associated with the handling, storage and product movement of petroleum distribution terminal. Oil loss monitoring.
- Interfacing with third party contractors, local and federal government agencies, internal and external customers, and Mobil global network system.
- Conduct simple math calculations and conversions of temperature, weights and measures,

Qualifications:


- High school diploma or equivalent.
- Experience in safe petroleum handling, distribution and storage or related field.
- Must be familiar with computer applications in spreadsheet, word processing.
- Understanding of Federal and Local regulations as they apply to petroleum handling, storage, and distribution.
- Must be fit for duty to be able to do the following: frequent or repetitive walking, prolonged standing, sitting, bending, stooping, lifting, moving or pulling moderate loads (<30lbs.) and climbing stairs. Must be able to work shifts based on a 24-hour work day, work extended hours, weekends and holidays.
- Good Interpersonal skills
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing in English


Preference will be given to candidates with the following skills:

- Experience in marine terminal operations.
- Previous experience in petroleum handling and storage.
- Previous experience in Petroleum Industry


Interested candidates should send an indication of interest to be considered to:
Marlenna Tanayan, Human Resources
642 East Marine Corps Drive, Hagatna, Guam 96910
(Fax) 671-648-3786
Email: marlenna.taitague@exxonmobil.com

ExxonMobil is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Federal law requires that we verify the identity and work eligibility of all new hires. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis.


We're drivers too.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Opening Date: Monday, February 4, 2013 for JVA Nos. 13-008 through 13-015
Closing Date: Friday, February 15, 2013 for JVA Nos. 13-008 through 13-015

JVA No. 13-00

Assistant Engineer (Electrical)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Rota or his/her designee. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.
LOCATION: Primarily at the Power Plant on Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. However, periodic meetings may occur at the Rota Administration Office.
SALARY: \$23,200.00 to \$33,640.00 per annum; Un-classified.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted; may be subject to work authorization requirements.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.

JVA No. 13-009

Assistant Engineer (Mechanical)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.
LOCATION: Primarily at the Power Generation on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. However, periodic meetings may occur at the CUC Main Office on Saipan. Periodic work at Power Plant 4 is possible. Periodic travel to Rota possible for the Power Plant there; duration may be about four weeks in some cases.
SALARY: \$23,200.00 to \$33,640.00 per annum; Un-classified.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted; may be subject to work authorization requirements.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.

JVA No. 13-010

Trades Technician (Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Rota or his/her designee. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.
LOCATION: Primarily at the Power Plant on Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. However, periodic meetings may occur at the Rota Administration Office.
SALARY: \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; Un-classified.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted; may be subject to work authorization requirements.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case mechanic. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.

JVA No. 13-011

Trades Technician (Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.
LOCATION: Primarily at the Power Generation on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. However, periodic meetings may occur at the CUC Main Office on Saipan. Periodic work at Power Plant 4 is possible. Periodic travel to Rota possible for the Power Plant there; duration may be about four weeks in some cases.
SALARY: \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; Un-classified.
POSITIONS: Thirteen (13).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted; may be subject to work authorization requirements.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case mechanic. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.

JVA No. 13-012

Trades Technician (Electrical)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.
LOCATION: Primarily at the Power Generation on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. However, periodic meetings may occur at the CUC Main Office on Saipan. Periodic work at Power Plant 4 is possible. Periodic travel to Rota possible for the Power Plant there; duration may be about four weeks in some cases.
SALARY: \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; Un-classified.
POSITIONS: Five (5).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted; may be subject to work authorization requirements.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case electrical. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.

JVA No. 13-013

Trades Technician (Operator)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.
LOCATION: Primarily at the Power Generation on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. However, periodic meeting may occur at the CUC Main Office on Saipan. Periodic work at Power Plant 4 is possible. Periodic travel to Rota possible for the Power Plant there; duration may be about four weeks in some cases.
SALARY: \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; Un-classified.
POSITIONS: Four (4).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted; may be subject to work authorization requirements.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case operator. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.

JVA No. 13-014

Trades Foreperson (Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.
LOCATION: Primarily at the Power Generation on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. However, periodic meetings may occur at the CUC Main Office on Saipan. Periodic work at Power Plant 4 is possible. Periodic travel to Rota possible for the Power Plant there; duration may be about four weeks in some cases.
SALARY: \$21,104 to \$30,601 per annum; Un-classified.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted; may be subject to work authorization requirements.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education. Four years of journey-level experience at the level of a Trades Technician, or comparable experience related to the Power Generation area assigned, including one year of experience leading a crew. Graduation from a Vocational/Technical Institution as a mechanic. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.

JVA No. 13-015

Trades Foreperson (Electrical)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.
LOCATION: Primarily at the Power Generation on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. However, periodic meetings may occur at the CUC Main Office on Saipan. Periodic work at Power Plant 4 is possible. Periodic travel to Rota possible; duration may be about four weeks in some cases.
SALARY: \$21,104 to \$30,601 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted; may be subject to work authorization requirements.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education. Four years of journey-level experience at the level of a Trades Technician, or comparable experience related to the Power Generation area assigned, including one year of experience leading a crew. Graduation from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an electrician. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Nuggets win ninth straight, beat Cavaliers



CLEVELAND (AP)—Denver coach George Karl thinks it's about time people started taking notice of his team.

Given the fact the Nuggets are the NBA's longest active winning streak, Karl has good reason to feel that way.

Danilo Gallinari scored 19 points, Kenneth Faried added 17 and Denver won their ninth straight game with a 111-103 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Saturday night.

Although the Nuggets have the fourth-best record in the Western Conference, no Denver player was selected for next Sunday's All-Star Game, a fact Karl is quick to point out.

"We're going to try and shock the world and become the first team to win a championship without an All-Star," he said.

The Nuggets, who have won 15 of 17, are on their longest winning streak since posting 10 straight victories from March 30-April 15, 2005. San Antonio had an 11-game streak snapped Friday night.

Kyrie Irving led Cleveland with 26 points, but was plagued by foul trouble. The All-Star guard picked up his fourth foul with 5:20 remaining in the third quarter and went to the bench with the Nuggets leading 72-61. Irving returned to start the fourth quarter with Denver ahead 84-73. He scored 12 points in the period, but Cleveland's rally fell short.

Irving was down on the court briefly after taking a knee to the thigh in the fourth quarter, but said following the game he was OK.

The loss ended Cleveland's three-game winning streak that matched a season high. The Cavaliers haven't won four games in a row since March 17-24, 2010, which was LeBron James' final season with the franchise.

"We ran into a team playing very good basketball," Cleveland coach Byron Scott said. "I'm not disappointed in our effort. Tonight, they were a better team."

Denver, which began a four-game road trip, is scheduled to play in Boston on Sunday. The Nuggets planned to fly into Boston following Saturday's game. The team reserved hotel rooms in Cleveland in case their plans were changed thanks to the massive snowstorm that hit the Northeast this weekend.

Denver showed its depth by placing eight players in double figures.

"There are only about 10 true superstars in the NBA, I think, but I believe Andre Iguodala, Ty Lawson, Andre Miller, and Kenneth Faried are in the next 40 players," Karl said.

Alonzo Gee scored 20 points for Cleveland with 16 coming in the first quarter.

The Nuggets built a 14-point lead in the fourth quarter. The



Denver Nuggets' Danilo Gallinari, right, lays one up over Cleveland Cavaliers' C.J. Miles, left, during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Friday, Jan. 11, 2013, in Denver.

Cavaliers cut the gap to 105-99 with 1:40 remaining, but Gallinari's two free throws and Faried's dunk put the game away.

The Nuggets, who were off Friday while the Cavaliers beat Orlando at home, looked like the fresher team. Denver outscored Cleveland 19-5 in fast-break points. The Nuggets also had 62 points in the paint compared to 32 for the Cavaliers.

"The starters and the bench were lacking a bit of energy," Irving said. "We were a step behind and they outplayed us."

The game featured physical play by both teams, particularly in the second half. Cavaliers

center Tyler Zeller was given a technical foul in the third quarter for shoving Nuggets center JaVale McGee while Faried and Cleveland forward Tristan Thompson got tangled up on a couple of occasions.

"It was my kind of game tonight," Faried said.

Karl had to be restrained by his assistants for going after the officials in the third quarter. Karl was angry about a foul call that went against his team.

Denver took a quick 8-0 lead, but Gee, who had scored 14 points his last two games combined, kept Cleveland in the game by scoring 15 of the Cavaliers' first 17 points.

while Miller, Kosta Koufos and Corey Brewer scored 10 apiece.

76ers 87, Bobcats 76

In Philadelphia, Lavoy Allen had 14 points and a career-high 22 rebounds, and Jrue Holiday scored 20 points to lead the Philadelphia 76ers past the Charlotte Bobcats.

Evan Turner had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Jeremy Pargo scored 12 points in his Sixers debut. Pargo signed a 10-day contract this week after he was waived by Cleveland. The Sixers improved to 5-2 on their eight-game homestand that ends Monday against the Los Angeles Clippers. The solid showing at home has helped the Sixers inch closer to the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference.

Ramon Sessions scored 20 points, Byron Mullens had 16 and Gerald Henderson 13 as the NBA-worst Bobcats lost their seventh straight.

Mavericks 116, Warriors 91

In Dallas, Shawn Marion scored a season-high 26 points, O.J. Mayo added 19 and the Dallas Mavericks handed the Golden State Warriors their fourth straight loss.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 15 points and Darren Collison keyed a first-quarter run for Dallas, which beat Golden State for the first time this season after dropping their first two meetings to the Warriors by a combined seven points.

The Mavericks built a 27-point lead in the second quarter to put away the Warriors early.

Golden State's Stephen Curry had 18 points on 8-of-23 shooting and Carl Landry added 13.

Pistons 105, Bucks 100

In Milwaukee, Charlie Villanueva hit a 3-pointer with 9.7 seconds left and Rodney Stuckey sealed the win with two free throws as the Detroit Pistons beat the Milwaukee Bucks.

Brandon Jennings, who scored 26 points, took an inbounds pass from Monta Ellis and made a tough fadeaway shot with 47.8 seconds left. But Jose Calderon, who tied his season high with 23 points, came back with a running layup for Detroit that tied it at 100.

After a timeout, the Pistons worked the ball to Villanueva, who got it at the top of the key and swished a 3. On the Bucks' next possession, Jennings fired up a 31-foot 3-point attempt with 3.2 seconds left. Stuckey's two free throws with 1.6 seconds remaining were the final margin.

Kings 120, Jazz 109

In Sacramento, Calif., Isaiah Thomas scored 25 points and Marcus Thornton had 24 for the Sacramento Kings in a victory over the Utah Jazz.

It was a boisterous crowd of 16,193 that was chanting "Sacramento!" just before tipoff in support of the Kings, who could be sold and move to Seattle next season.

Alec Burks had a career-high 24 points and Al Jefferson scored 16 for the Jazz, who dropped their second straight game. Enes Kantar had 15 points and DeMare Carroll had 14.

Jason Thompson had 21 points for the Kings, who snapped a four-game losing streak and had lost eight of nine games, most of them on a recent dismal road trip.

LeBron playing at perhaps highest level yet

MIAMI (AP)—After a recent Miami Heat practice in Washington, Ray Allen told the coaching staff he was skipping the bus ride and running back to the hotel.

LeBron James' ears perked up. With that, the three-time NBA MVP went looking for his running shoes.

"LeBron said, 'If you're going to do that, I'm going to do that too. I'm not going to be outdone by somebody else. I'm going to run,'" Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "So he gets very competitive with things like that. If other people are working on their game, he takes notice."

That approach must be working. James' game—already considered among the best in the NBA—might be better than ever right now.

He's made 37 of his last 47 shots over his last 111 minutes, a torrid 79-percent clip. For the season, he's shooting a career-best 56 percent so far, easily

on pace for the sixth straight season of improvement in that department. His 3-point shooting, at 42 percent this season, is much improved. He's shooting 70 percent inside the paint.

"I want to continue to push the button, continue to get better, maximize my potential and not waste an opportunity," James said.

The numbers go on and on. He's averaging 26.9 points this season. According to STATS LLC, only five players in NBA history have averaged that many points while shooting at least 56 percent over a full season. Maybe that's why Heat guard Dwyane Wade marvels when talking about James these days, saying "every year, it seems like he does the amazing."

"Numbers don't lie," James said.

At least, they don't in this case. After winning his third MVP award, second Olympic gold medal and first NBA championship, James said he

wanted to get even better.

"It's kind of like, where is the bar for this guy? Does he have a bar?" Wade said. "And I'm glad that he's doing all this while he's in a Miami Heat uniform."

Miami continues its homestand on Sunday, playing host to Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers, who have won seven of their last nine games.

While he's been sensational all season—sweeping the Eastern Conference player of the month awards so far, almost certainly moving to the front of the class in the MVP balloting once again and once again averaging more combined points, assists and rebounds (42.0) than anyone else in the league—James has been particularly hot of late.

Starting in the fourth quarter of Miami's game last weekend at Toronto, James has generated 102 points on 47 shots. How off-the-charts effective is that? Remember, if he went 47-for-47 on 2-pointers alone and did nothing else, that would only

add up to 94 points.

His "bad" game in the past week was an 11-for-18 showing against Houston. He shot 13 for 14 against Charlotte on Monday, the lone miss coming on a layup attempt where he appeared to get fouled. Against the Los Angeles Clippers on Friday night, he shot 9 for 11—and probably had a case that one of the two misses he was charged with really wasn't a shot attempt at all.

Nonetheless, it all adds up to James missing 10 shots in the last 12-1/2 quarters of Heat basketball. Across the NBA, 14 different players missed at least 10 shots on Friday night alone.

"I mean, come on. We try to come up with new superlatives every single game," Spoelstra said. "He's the best player in the game and he's continuing to reinvent himself. This guy isn't trying to shy away from work ethic or preparation. He's getting after it. Our film sessions, he treats them like he's a coach.

He sees something, he'll point it out to the guys. He's continuing to improve. And quite frankly, we need it."

James said he's done nothing out of the ordinary to raise his shooting numbers.

Hard work, he said, has been the difference. The Heat added one of the game's all-time elite shooters in Allen last summer, and James is typically involved in some sort of shooting session with the NBA's career 3-point leader after every practice. He hits the practice court to take game-situation jumpers when his legs are fresh. He does it again when his legs are tired.

His confidence might be higher than his shooting percentage. And it's showing.

"When I'm able to go out there on the floor, I just try to make things happen," James said. "But I want to continue to get better. I'm not satisfied and I work on my game each and every day, trying to figure out ways I can get better, both offensively and defensively, from the interior to the exterior, whatever the case may be."

Snedeker, Hahn tied for the lead at Pebble



PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—At least this time,

Brandt Snedeker feels it's a fair fight.

He started the final round at Torrey Pines seven shots behind Tiger Woods. A week later in the Phoenix Open, he went into the final round six shots behind Phil Mickelson.

Snedeker, the hottest player in golf this year without a win to show for it, put matters into his own hands Saturday by running off four straight birdies along the prettiest part of Pebble Beach for a 4-under 68 that gave him a share of the lead with 31-year-old rookie James Hahn in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

"You never know what tomorrow holds, but I feel like I'm in great position, and I'm going to be surely more prepared, no matter who is around me in the last group," said Snedeker, who posted his ninth straight round in the 60s. "I'm probably going to have the most experience of anybody in those last couple groups of winning a golf tournament."

That won't make Sunday any easier.

Snedeker made a detour to the CBS Sports booth after his round, and then headed straight to the practice green. He was irritated by missing four birdie putts inside 10 feet, including on the last two holes that cost him some room for error on the final day.

Hahn birdied his last three holes for a 66 at Spyglass Hill, putting him in the final group for the first time. They were at 12-under 202, one shot ahead of Chris Kirk, who had a 64 on the super-fast greens of Monterey Peninsula.

Mickelson tumbled down the rocks and down the leaderboard on the final hole at Pebble Beach.

The defending champion hit a tee shot on the par-5 18th that ran over the cliff and down toward the beach. Mickelson went down to see if the ball could be found—and possibly played—when his right foot gave way and he handed hard on his back side, bracing for the fall with his hands.

For all the celebrity antics that are part of the show Saturday at Pebble, this is the one video that might go viral.

"I got lucky," Mickelson said. "I didn't get hurt."

Not physically, anyway. Mickelson hit his next shot into the Pacific Ocean and had to scramble for a triple bogey, leaving him 11 shots behind and ending his hopes of a record-tying fifth win at Pebble Beach.

All the attention now shifts to Snedeker, who has shot in the 60s in 15 out of his 18 rounds this year. Mickelson had a good look at Snedeker last week in Phoenix when he finally put



Brandt Snedeker holds up his ball after making a birdie on the second green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the third round of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013 in Pebble Beach, Calif.

him away with late birdies on the back nine.

"He's been playing great golf these last couple of weeks ... and it looks like this could be his week," Mickelson said. "But final round at Pebble Beach, a lot of things happen and he has to play one more good round. I know he has it in him, but he still has to go do it."

A year ago, Mickelson came from six shots off the lead to win. There were two dozen players within six shots of the lead after Saturday's round, a group that included Retief Goosen and U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson, whose 7-under 65 at Pebble was the lowest score to par all week.

Pebble Beach was simply majestic on Saturday, with a blazing sun shining across the Pacific coast and temperatures in the upper 50s.

Snedeker began his big run with a 3-wood up the hill and onto the green at the par-5 sixth for a two-putt birdie. He followed with a 10-foot birdie on the seventh, and then hit two of his best shots on two of the toughest holes at Pebble—a 7-iron over a corner of the ocean to about 5 feet below the hole on the

eightth, and a baby cut with an 8-iron that plopped down 4 feet away for a birdie on the ninth.

He didn't make many putts the rest of the way, however, and had to settle for a 68.

In his last nine rounds, Snedeker's average score is 67.8. The difference has been his driving, which went from a weakness to strength late last summer when he won the Tour Championship to capture the FedEx Cup. Now he wants a trophy to back up the low scores.

"You want to win any time you have a chance because you don't know how many times you're going to get that in a year," Snedeker said. "I've had a couple chances the last couple weeks—haven't been the best chances. And this week, I have a great chance going into tomorrow. And you need to capitalize on those chances."

Snedeker missed four birdie putts inside 10 feet, including the last two holes. He badly misjudged the break on an 8-foot birdie putt on the 17th and made a weak effort from 8 feet on the 18th hole.

"The last two really upset me because I felt like I really stayed patient all day and had done a great job and hit two great shots on the last couple of holes," Snedeker said. "Those are the kind of putts you need to put some room between you and whoever else you're going to be around."

In this case, that would be Hahn, who seems to thrive in any environment.

Until now, Hahn was best known for his "Gangnam Style" celebration of his birdie on the 16th hole at the Phoenix Open. If he was secure enough to dance before the rowdiest gallery in golf, then he should be OK playing in the final group at Pebble Beach with a round that could severely change his career path.

At stake are a two-year exemption and a trip to the Masters.

"I'm not even in next week's tournament, so to me, a top-10 finish would be great," Hahn said. "So if you want to compare the Northern Trust Open to Augusta, we can. I would love to play another week out on tour, but just to learn from Brandt Snedeker, he's one of the hottest golfers on the planet right now."

Hahn isn't one of those can't-miss rookies. He's only a year older than Snedeker, and took a far different path to the big leagues. He dropped out of California, and then took time off to work at an advertising agency, earned his realtor's license and even sold shoes at Nordstrom's.

"I feel like I'm playing well just because I feel comfortable," he said. "You know, comfortable and having fun, that's when I'm playing my best golf. ... I feel like my attitude on the golf course is better than it has been in recent years, and not getting so frustrated out there, just kind of enjoying the moment. I keep saying that, but it's a blast to be inside the ropes and a member of the PGA Tour."

Brewers manager Roenicke standing by Braun



MIAMI (AP)—Milwaukee

Brewers manager Ron Roenicke strongly defended slugger Ryan Braun on Saturday night, saying he's upset over the possibility that the 2011 NL MVP was linked to baseball's latest drug investigation for no good reason.

Braun's name appears in records from the Biogenesis of America LLC clinic, a defunct business in Coral Gables that allegedly provided performance-enhancing substances to a number of players, including Alex Rodriguez, Gio Gonzalez, Melky Cabrera, Bartolo Colon and Nelson Cruz. The original report about the clinic was published by Miami New Times, and Braun's tie to the clinic was first reported by Yahoo Sports.

Braun has said he used the person who ran the clinic, Anthony Bosch, only as a consultant in his defense last year when he successfully fought what would have been a 50-game suspension after testing positive for elevated levels of testosterone during the 2011 postseason. An arbitrator overturned that suspension during spring training last year after

finding chain-of-custody issues involving the sample.

"It's upsetting to me when they make comments when there may be nothing to it, because you can't take those comments back," Roenicke told The Associated Press.

Roenicke was speaking Saturday night at Florida International University's annual baseball banquet.

Braun said his name was in the Biogenesis records because of an issue over payment to Bosch. The records, according to Yahoo, do not show any specific performance-enhancing drugs being listed next to Braun's name.

"I really care about the guy and I like him," Roenicke said. "He knows that and I can talk to him about anything. He's had some tough times. This last offseason, tough offseason going through what he did. This offseason, the latest rumors out of here, his name is mentioned again. So he'll have to go through some of that."

Braun played college ball at Miami, which has also been linked to baseball's investigation. A strength and conditioning coach for the Hurricanes

also appears in the clinic's records, and Miami officials say they are looking into why that was the case. The school has not announced any change in the employment status of the strength coach, Jimmy Goins.

The latest drug scandal has been the talk of the game in recent weeks, especially with spring training camps set to open around the majors in the coming days.

"For me, if any player is taking PEDs now, it's just shocking to me—because you're going to get caught," Miami Marlins president David Samson said Saturday at a separate event. "You can't have that big an ego. You can't. The testing is good."

Many of the players listed in the New Times story and others either played at or have been known to do at least some of their offseason training at Miami. Of those, the most notable is Rodriguez, who is also a trustee at the university and has his name on the baseball stadium after pledging \$3.9 million toward a renovation project several years ago.

"So no matter if it's just a payment that wasn't made and that was it, his name's still out

there and it's not right," Roenicke said. "When a story's put out there, they need to know if they drop a name, they need to know why they're dropping that name. If there's reason to drop it, fine. But if they have no idea why they're dropping the name, not fair."

Braun batted .319 with a career-high 41 home runs and 112 RBIs for the Brewers last season. The 41 homers topped the NL, and put him only three behind Miguel Cabrera's major-league-leading total of 44 for the Detroit Tigers.

"He was the same guy last year, but he didn't have a day that went by where what happened wasn't on his mind," Roenicke said. "It was hard on him. It was hard on him but it shows what kind of player he is, what kind of person he is, to turn around and have that kind of season he had last year."

Major League Baseball is attempting to gain access to the clinic's documents and establish a chain of evidence that could be used to justify any potential suspension for violating the sport's drug agreement. MLB has declined comment other than to say it is investigating.

Rigondeaux now likely Donaire's next foe

By Marc Anthony Reyes
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Looks like Nonito Donaire Jr. will be fighting unbeaten Cuban champion Guillermo Rigondeaux after all.

After negotiations with Abner Mares fell through, several internet reports Saturday said the Filipino WBO super bantamweight titlist and consensus 2012 Fighter of the Year will

battle Rigondeaux on April 13 in New York City.

Citing its sources, espn.com said the fight will be held possibly at Radio City Music Hall, although it didn't count out the possibility of California or even Texas as alternative site.

It was earlier reported the unification bout would be staged at Madison Square Garden, where Donaire wrested the WBO bantam crown over a defense-

minded Omar Narvaez of Argentina in October 2011.

Website Bad Left Hook, quoting writer Gabriel Montoya of maxboxing.com, said the fight has been "signed sealed and delivered" with both Rigondeaux (11-0-0 with 8 knockouts) agreeing to undergo Voluntary Anti Doping Association tests (Vada).

Donaire is the first and only professional boxer who agreed to subject himself to Vada test-

ing 24/7.

It also said the 32-year-old Cuban, a double gold Olympic champ, is assured of \$750,000 for the fight, an unprecedented paycheck for somebody who has yet to prove he is bankable despite a checkered career in the amateurs.

Rigondeaux's promoter, Caribe Promotions tweeted a picture of the WBA champion signing some papers with a caption in



Spanish supposedly regarding the April 13 fight against Donaire.

Donaire, 31-1-0 with 20 knockouts, has earlier stressed that he wants an April fight and then rest for three months just in time for the birth of his firstborn with wife Rachel.

He has expressed desire to face undefeated WBC Mexican champ Abner Mares, but negotiations bogged down due to conflict with their promotional outfits.

Top Rank, which has yet to make a formal announcement, reportedly agreed to co-promote the fight with Caribe Promotions. Rigondeaux had earlier threatened not to sign the contract unless Top Rank settles its legal dispute with Caribe.

HEDGEHOGS

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vanced past the Bearded Clam Diggers in the first round before ousting eventual runner-up 72% in their first meeting, 21-10, but the latter survived through the lower bracket, taking out Privet, Lucky Lefties, and Delta for another crack at top prize.

72%'s Bruce Berline and Chris Nelson went on to take the opening final set, 21-18, but some untimely exits by a player of each squad caused puzzlement.



From fifth left, men's division winners Tyce Mister and Russ Quinn pose with Delta's Jazz Roskow, runner-up Bruce Berline of 72%, NMIVA president Laurie Peterka, left, Delta's Jesse Palacios, third right, and Privuet's Clay McCullough-Stearns with some Hyatt staff members after the conclusion of last Saturday's 5th For the Love of Volleyball beach doubles tournament.

Lover Boys' Quinn suffered an injury late in the previous set and was unable to continue, however 72%'s Nelson declared he was out and had to leave prior to the former's declaration.

But in the end, to go with the spirit of the tournament, Delta's Jazz Roskaw and Priviet's Clay McCullough-Stearns stepped in to fill the void.

Beach Volleyball Festival, which features the 7th Junior/Kids Marianas Cup event being hosted on Saipan this coming Saturday and Sunday at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

While the main event is being held for the first time ever in Guam this year, a number of professional beach volleyball players will still be coming to Saipan.

Pros like returning champs Jenki Hitabe and Yasuo Nakaya of Japan are expected to make an appearance and see action in an exhibition match in the Jr. Kids Cup this Saturday at 3am.

Other upcoming volleyball events include the finale of its Sunset Beach Volleyball coed tourney this Friday also at Fiesta Resort (5:30pm) and the

2013 Tinian Hot Pepper Festival 4-Person Beach Volleyball Tournament, scheduled this Saturday and Sunday on Tachonga Beach.

Cash prizes are up for grabs for the Sunset champions as well as the top three podium finishers of the Tinian event.

Onsite registration for Tinian's free tournament begins at 10am on Saturday morning with a targeted 1pm start time; games may start immediately after the opening ceremony.

Players are requested to form their own coed teams. Teams are being capped at five members and at least one member of opposite gender must remain on the court at all times.

The competition begins with various rounds of pool play to determine bracket rankings leading up to its single-elimina-

tion championship playoffs.

Tentative game point is set at 21 with a cap of 25 and a must-win-by-two rule in effect, however depending on the turnout, tournament organizers reserve the right to adjust the scoring format in order to ensure a timely finish.

Standard Federation DeVolleyball beach volleyball rules also apply and serves must rotate.

Pre-registration forms for Saipan players can be obtained through Frank Tudela at the Marianas Visitor Authority office (664-3210); travel specials are available for interested Saipan players.

For more information, email Vida Borja at 433-9365 vborja@mymarianas.com or email nmivolleyball@gmail.com.

RAMSEY

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Raulerson, who is playing in her first U12 game, had a rousing debut after pounding Ruth Park, 8-0. Raulerson was scheduled to face top seed Hannah Nelson in the upper bracket quarterfinals yesterday. Also set to square off

in the quarters of the top half of the draw were Tania Tan and Coume Kaga, who drew byes last Saturday.

In the lower half of the U12 draw, Grace Choi advanced in the quarterfinals after ousting Conatsu Kaga, 8-3. Choi was slated to challenge second-ranked Mimi Sakano in the next round yesterday, while

Catherine Atalig and Malika Miyawaki were set to collided in another quarterfinal pairing last Sunday.

In the boys U12, Kevin Kim and Michael Jones earned slots to the next round after winning separate matches last Saturday. Kim defeated A.J. Hudkins, 8-3, to force a quarterfinal tiff versus top seed

Steven Goodwin, while Michael Jones slipped past Ken Song, 9-7, to set a date against second-ranked Robbie Schorr.

Meanwhile, matches in the mixed-up doubles were also played in Week 1 of the White Coconut Classic and their results along with the boys and girls U18 and boys U10's will be reported later this week.

35 TEAMS

From Page 28

School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Manta Ray Battalion then presented flags for the U.S. and CNMI anthems.

Upon the Retrieval of the Flags, pastor Dilise of the Grace Christian Assembly performed an invocation.

Welcoming remarks then ensued from Little League president Sen. Ray N. Yumul (IR-Saipan); Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's representative Rhonda Fleming Nogis, deputy secretary of the Department of

Community and Cultural Affairs; Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan; and little league vice president Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan). Closing remarks were offered by Little League Baseball International's newly appointed CNMI district administrator Mike Borja.

Most of the remarks echoed thanks to parents and volunteers with reminders to the players to have fun, above all.

Added appreciation went out to Little League sponsors and donors; the association's board and umpire staff; Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and his office; Flores' son Dar-

ren, who provided the public announcement system; the Legislative Bureau; the 18th Legislature; DCCA's Sports & Recreation staff; and to the LG Twins Korean professional baseball team who apparently assisted with the field maintenance during its recent spring training visit.

Pastor Dilise returned to the plate for a Benediction after which volunteers from the crowd participated in the little league player and parent/volunteer pledges.

Local legend and Rep. Anthony Benavente (IR-Saipan) then took the mound and warmed up

his arm as the teams exited the field in preparation for the ceremonial first pitch, which was ticketed as a battle between the house and senate.

Benavente dealt to Torres and struck him out in five pitches before Coldeen concluded the show.

Notably, the SLLB also announced that it is chartering an 18-and-under girls fast-pitch softball season in the coming weeks in conjunction with the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization. Participating teams include SSHS, Kagman High School, Marianas School, and Mount Carmel School.

ADOBO

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three-point attempt from the left corner with Adobo down by just three, 67-70, with still 29 seconds left on the clock. After his' airball shot, Adobo fortunately regained possession when Chinatown lost the ball at the backcourt. Lester Vertudez then drove strong to the basket and hit the bucket to trim the lead to 1 point, 69-70, 18.6 seconds remaining in the game.

After the error, Chinatown was forced to foul Dela Cruz from the backcourt with 3.8 seconds left in the fourth. Dela Cruz missed both charities and Chinatown's Pua grabbed the rebound and passed the leather to Norita, who pulled up for a desperation trey from the backcourt and muffed the shot.

It was a sorry loss for Chinatown, who entered the last two minutes of the game ahead by three after Zapanta's error and then went up by 4 points, 68-64, going into the final one minute of the fourth.

An Adobo quick foul put Arvin Avila on the line and his split charities gave Chinatown a shaky 71-69 advantage and the lead was wiped out with Mamaril, James Dela Cruz, and Vertudez teaming up in Adobo's next play.

Mamaril made the inbound after the timeout, while Vertudez drove to the basket before dishing the ball to Dela Cruz. Another extra pass returned possession to Mamaril from the top key and the Adobo guard seemed ready to feed his teammate in the paint, but decided in the end to take the shot from beyond the arc, as he was momentarily left open when Chinatown's defense collapsed inside.

Adobo, which led by as much as 13 in the third period, remained in contention, thanked to Vertudez, who went 2-for-4 from the stripe and nailed 4 of their last 7 points. Vertudez went on to top-score for Adobo with his 24 markers, while Kristian Alegre chipped in 17.

Norita led all scorers with his 27 points, while Zapanta added 20.

Meanwhile, Division A action in the DLX caging resumed last Saturday and results of the Docomo-Pacific Stars tiff along with the first game in Division B last Friday will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

Vertudez' trey hit nothing but the bottom of the next and with Adobo now on top and neither team having timeouts left with the clock winding down, Chinatown rushed its inbound play and Justin Zapanta's pitch to Jerome Norita went too strong with the ball rolling out to the sideline.

Adobo 72 – Vertudez 24, Alegre 17, Dela Cruz 9, Mamaril 5, Aglipay 4, Aranda 4, Tadifa 3.

Chinatown 71 – Norita 27, Zapanta 20, Avila 11, Quizon 10, Kim 3.

Scoring by quarters: 9-18, 36-26, 53-44, 72-71.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES	
NBA STANDINGS	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Atlantic Division	
	W L Pct GB
New York	32 16 .667 —
Brooklyn	29 21 .580 4
Boston	26 23 .531 6 1/2
Philadelphia	22 27 .449 10 1/2
Toronto	18 32 .360 15
Southeast Division	
Miami	33 14 .702 —
Atlanta	27 22 .551 7
Washington	14 35 .286 20
Orlando	14 36 .280 20 1/2
Charlotte	11 39 .220 23 1/2
Central Division	
Indiana	31 20 .608 —
Chicago	30 20 .600 1/2
Milwaukee	25 24 .510 5
Detroit	20 32 .385 11 1/2
Cleveland	16 35 .314 15
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Southwest Division	
San Antonio	39 12 .765 —
Memphis	31 18 .633 7
Houston	28 24 .538 11 1/2
Dallas	22 28 .440 16 1/2
New Orleans	17 33 .340 21 1/2
Northwest Division	
Oklahoma City	38 12 .760 —
Denver	33 18 .647 5 1/2
Utah	28 24 .538 11
Portland	25 25 .500 13
Minnesota	18 29 .383 18 1/2
Pacific Division	
L.A. Clippers	35 17 .673 —
Golden State	30 21 .588 4 1/2
L.A. Lakers	24 27 .471 10 1/2
Sacramento	18 33 .353 16 1/2
Phoenix	17 34 .333 17 1/2
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	

Weekend Sports

Four volleyball teams and one basketball squad shared top honors last week after ruling their respective competitions.

In the U13 mixed category of the 2013 NMIVA Junior/Kids Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament, Ball Busters' Sally Hwang, Kentaro Kitagawa, Masaki Kitami, and Luther Lizama survived Living Like Larry in the finals, 16-14, to top the seven-team field.

In the U18 mixed division, Frankie Camacho, Bryan Daria, Satcy Escueta, and Melanie Nakamura of Tu Madre were un-

V'ball, basketball teams triumph

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

defeated in the eliminations and clinched the championship after downing Give & Go in the title match, 21-18.

J.R. Gechig and Wilton Laniyo of MIA took the U25 men's doubles crown, prevailing against six other squads. The winning duo was also undefeated and gained the U25 championship after beating Previet in the finals, 15-11.

Hannah Compos and Chenny Lizama of I Don't Know duplicated MIA's feat, winning the U25 women's doubles title. The pair swept all its three games in the elimination and then thwarted No Idea in the finals, 21-11, to rule the 10-team field.

Also recording a sweep last week was Blue Haus, which topped Lions Club/NMC Proa in Game 2 of their best-of-three

title series in the QQ Cup. After winning Game 1, 76-75, Blue Haus moved closer to the title sweep, leading the rained-out Game 2, 54-46, with 1:42 left on the clock. The Feb. 1 shortened match resumed of Feb. 6 with Blue Haus preserving the lead and the win, 60-50, en route to the series sweep.

Still in basketball, Maplas La Mani posted back-to-back

close wins in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Maplas first edged Susupe in overtime, 86-84, and then slipped past LD Prime, 66-65. Other winners in last week's Division B game were Chinatown and the Sexy Boys.

In the Blue Haus caging at the Garapan Basketball Court, Team Capalad, Sun Palace, and Angie's

Boys pulled off separate wins to advance to the playoffs.

Over at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, the MHS routed Eucon International School in the varsity division of the MISO caging, 88-50, while the Dolphins also won their junior varsity game versus Agape Christian School, 46-31.

Still in MISO, the Lady Blue Dolphins snapped Grace Christian Academy's nine-game winning streak in the volleyball league. MHS Blue improved to an 8-2 record for second place, one win ahead of Saipan International School's Lady Green Geckos (7-2).



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Marianas High School Dolphins' Michael Mancao gets hacked by Eucon International School Blazers' Peter Zhou on this reverse layup during their MISO varsity boys basketball matchup last week at the MHS Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

LD Prime's John Jugos drives against Maplas La Mani's Jerome Anciete, left, and Rommel Usi during their Division B game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Susupe's Roger Sevilla, left, and Maplas La Mani's Ryan Odicla battle for the loose ball during their Division B game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hannah Compos, left, and Chenny Lizama of I Don't Know pose for a photo after winning the U25 women's doubles crown in the 2013 NMIVA Junior/Kids Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament held last week in Navy Hill.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Blue Haus players and supporters pose with league officials during the awards ceremony for the QQ Car Rental Cup last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant in the U25 men's doubles division of the 2013 NMIVA Junior/Kids Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament goes for shot in the net.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hedgehogs tops ladies beach v'ball doubles



From third left, women's division winners Christen Steinkuler and Jen Douglas pose with runners-up Heather Kennedy and Nicole Leblanc, third placer Kathy Winkfield, second left, and some venue representatives during the 5th For the Love of Volleyball awards ceremony held Saturday afternoon at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Hedgehogs' Jen Douglas and Christen Steinkuler triumphed over seven other ladies duos to win outright Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's 5th For the Love of Volleyball Tournament this past Saturday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Ramsey, Villanueva complete semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Colin Ramsey and Moris Villanueva cruised past their respective foes to march into the semifinals of the boys U15 singles division in the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

Ramsey shut out the debuting Seok Jun Yun, 8-0, last Saturday morning at the American Memorial Park tennis courts to set up a Final Four showdown with top seed Dylan Ackerman, who drew a bye last weekend.

Villanueva will play in the other Final Four pairing against Michael Ren after the former eased past Luther Lizama, 8-1, also last Saturday.

The semis cast in the girls U15 was also completed in Week 1 of the two-week competition with top-ranked Carol Lee leading the Final Four qualifiers. Lee blanked Julia Ishika-



Colin Ramsey goes for a baseline return during his and Luther Lizama's mixed-up doubles game against Robbie Schorr and Steve Nutting in the 2013 White Coconut Classic last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The nine-team men's doubles division, meanwhile, concluded with some confusion as the finals tiebreaker match never officially took place though organizers eventually declared top-ranked Lover Boys as the overall winner.

The Top 3 men's and women's place finishers all received in-kind prizes provided by Hyatt Regency.

The Hedgehogs eventually defeated East Coast's Heather Kennedy and Nicole Leblanc, 21-12, in the finals after advancing past its rivals, 21-9, in the upper bracket semifinals.

The Hedgehogs also knocked off Blinded and Smokya in the opening rounds of double-elimination play.

As for the men's, Lover Boys' Tyce Mister and Russ Quinn ad-

See HEDGEHOGS on Page 26

35 teams, over 500 players suit up for 2013 season

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Thirty-five teams made up of over 500 players across four age divisions lined up along the shallow outfield grass of Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield last Friday evening to mark the opening of the Saipan Little League

Baseball's 2013 season.

Master of ceremony Bob Coldeen introduced the crowd and then this year's field of teams, which include 16 Major League teams (ages 9 to 12), seven Junior League squads (ages 12 to 14), six Senior League squads (14 to 16), and six Big League teams (16 to 18).

The Saipan Southern High See 35 TEAMS on Page 26



From left, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Rep. Anthony Bena-vente (R-Saipan) shake hands with Docomo Pacific OI'Aces' catcher Jonah Flores after the ceremonial pitch during last Saturday's opening ceremony for the Saipan Little League 2013 season.

Adobo keeps unbeaten record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Adobo flirted with its first loss of the season before pulling off an exciting 72-71 win over Chinatown in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Genesis Mamaril canned a crucial triple to keep Adobo's undefeated record after four games and end Chinatown's three-game streak. With the victory, Adobo took the solo lead, one win ahead of the Sexy Boys (3-0), while the loss dropped Chinatown to third place with its 3-2 slate.

Mamaril's dagger saved him from his earlier ill-advised and See ADOB0 on Page 26



Adobo's Lester Vertudez hangs on to the ball after dropping on the floor during the last two minutes of their game against Chinatown in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.